



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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LD0612140088 [Editorial Report]

Afghanistan Talks in Saudi Arabia

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov met with King Fahd in the wake of his talks with Afghan mujahidin leaders, informing the Saudi leader that the Soviet Union still intends to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan by the agreed date, and "probably earlier," SPA reported.

On the outcome of the meetings in Al-Ta'if, Vorontsov said the talks with mujahidin leaders were "beneficial" and will contribute to ending the war and securing the formation of a broad-based Afghan government.

The two sides agreed to continue talks in Pakistan on a date to be decided by mutual agreement, he added.

SPA also carried a mujahidin statement which said the "preliminary discussions" with Vorontsov focused on Soviet withdrawal and the handing over of power to the Afghan people represented by the mujahidin; compensation for losses sustained as a result of the Soviet occupation; and Afghanistan's neutrality and noninterference in the domestic affairs of both countries in the future.

The mujahidin delegation sensed that the Soviet side seeks to "open a new page with the Afghan people."

Vorontsov subsequently flew to Cairo, where he briefed Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid on the results of the talks in Saudi Arabia and predicted that 1989 will be "the year of peace" in Afghanistan, according to MENA.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Sweden 6 December for talks with a group of U.S. Jews, Stockholm radio announced.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry reacted with "astonishment" to news of the invitation for the PLO leader to visit Sweden, Jerusalem radio noted.

'Arafat had earlier visited Libya, telling JANA his talks with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi would cover Palestinian developments, including the "stubborn" U.S. attitude.

Israel

President Hayim Herzog granted Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir another 21 days to form a government and appealed for the establishment of a broad-based coalition, IDF radio reported.

However, Shamir does not intend to ask the Alignment again to join his government, Jerusalem radio noted, adding that contacts with religious and right-wing parties were continuing in Shamir's office concerning the establishment of a narrow-based administration.

In an interview with MA'ARIV, Shamir stressed that chances of establishing a broad-based coalition are dependent on the Labor Party reversing the decision taken by its bureau last week.

For the Alignment, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced in remarks broadcast by IDF radio that he was "very much impressed" with President Herzog's appeal for a broad-based government.

Speaking after a 6 December meeting with the president, Peres said he is seeking to convene the Labor Party Central Committee this week with the recommendation that it respond favorably.

A broad-based government should be based on the "parity" in the two major parties' election results, Peres added, and it should promote electoral reform and prevent legislation liable to divide the Jewish nation.

Meanwhile, an appeal for new elections was made by the National Religious Party, one of Shamir's prospective coalition partners, according to Jerusalem radio.

In the territories, a 15-year-old girl was killed by a plastic bullet fired by an IDF patrol during riots in a Gaza Strip refugee camp, the radio reported.

Lebanon

A car bomb exploded near the government house in the Al-Sana'i area of West Beirut 5 December, killing one person and wounding seven others, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

The booby-trapped vehicle was rolled toward the building, but collided with another car and exploded before reaching it.

A second explosion was targeted against Palestinian positions in the Al-Biq'a Valley, wounding three people, the radio added.

On the continued closure of the Museum crossing point into West Beirut, a source in the East Beirut administration stressed that this measure is in response to the nonpayment of funds to the eastern area, the radio noted.

As for the conflict between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati announced that the two sides, Iran, and Syria will hold a quadripartite meeting next week in an attempt to resolve the problems, according to Voice of National Resistance radio.

Besharati's announcement came after he met separately with Amal and Hizballah leaders and with other officials in West Beirut.

On his recent talks in Damascus, Besharati described Iranian relations with Syria as "extremely good," noting that he conveyed an "important" message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Responding to Besharati's remarks, an Amal source cited by Beirut radio stressed that any talks with Hizballah are contingent on the handover of those responsible for the murder of three Amal leaders in September.

In another development, Israel released the three Lebanese sailors detained over the weekend, Voice of National Resistance noted.

Egypt: Relations With Libya, Syria

Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid welcomed the recent Libyan initiative to stop information campaigns against Egypt and viewed the reopening of Egyptian airspace to Libyan aviation as a first step toward improving bilateral relations, MENA reported.

Nevertheless, Civil Aviation Minister Fu'ad Sultan stressed that the decision to allow Libyan planes into Egyptian airspace is limited to the passage of Libyan airliners carrying passengers on the minor pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia, the agency noted.

'Abd al-Majid also welcomed attempts to bring about a reconciliation with Syria, stressing Egypt is not opposed to opening a "new page" provided the Syrians demonstrate "good intentions."

He likewise welcomed the "relative diminution" of Syrian information campaigns against Egypt, the agency added.

Iraq

Missile Power—An Iraqi major general announced that Iraq's Al-Faw 1 missile is a response to the "challenge" presented by Israeli long-range missiles that threaten the Arab nation, WAKH reported.

Al-Faw 1, an anti-missile missile, gives Iraq the capability of destroying Israeli missiles in the air, he asserted.

Foreign Visitors—After meeting with President Saddam Husayn, Libyan envoy Colonel Mustafa Karrubi expressed "deep appreciation" for the Iraqi leader and praised Iraqi policy, INA reported.

Saddam Husayn subsequently received Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan, who delivered a message from King Husayn, the agency noted.

Algeria

President Chadli Bendjedid announced changes in the command of the Armed Forces, appointing a new inspector general of the National People's Army as well as new commanders for the Navy, Air Defense Force, and five military regions, Algiers television reported.

New heads of military security and of the president's defense and security department were also appointed.

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi on PLO Desire To Hold Talks With U.S.
*JN0512184688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT
5 Dec 88*

[Text] London, 5 Dec (WAKH)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, has declared that the PLO wants Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories before reaching a final peace settlement. He said despite the disagreement which has arisen due to U.S. refusal to grant PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States, the PLO still believes the United States could exert pressure on Israel to stop the military oppression operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In an interview published in London today, Qaddumi said the PLO wants the United States to exert pressure on Israel to accept the proposed peace conference. The more important issue is that it should stop its bestial practices and harassment of the Palestinian people inside Palestine. The PLO also wants to start talks with the United States.

In the interview published by the newspaper, AL-HAYAH, issued in London today, Qaddumi said the time was ripe for the Americans, whether in the U.S. Senate or other ranking officials, to meet with the PLO calmly to discuss and hold dialogues on the various topics dealing with the Middle East dispute. They should listen to information from its original source and the real stands on peace and the international conference.

The head of the PLO Political Department said U.S. ideas on the international peace conference are very positive. He believes, however, that Israel has to clear the way for the United Nations to supervise the occupied territories before holding the peace conference.

PLO's Hurani on 'Arafat's Geneva Speech
*JN0512175788 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
4 Dec 88 pp 1, 30*

[Text] Tunis—New York—(AL-ANBA)—News agencies—A senior Palestinian official yesterday announced that in his speech before the UN General Assembly in Geneva, Yasir 'Arafat will give other dimensions to the resolutions taken by the PNC in Algiers last November, including the recognition of Resolution No 242, linked to the right to self-determination.

In an interview with AL-ANBA' in Tunis, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani said 'Arafat's speech will explain some paragraphs in the Algiers resolutions, answer some questions posed by some people, and make further clarifications.

Hurani was answering a question on some hints made by Dr Clovis Maqsud, the Arab League's representative at the United Nations, that in his speech in Geneva Yasir 'Arafat will go beyond the PNC's recent resolutions in Algiers.

He held a news conference following the General Assembly's decision the night before last to move its discussions to Geneva. A majority of 154 members voted in favor of the decision while the United States and Israel voted against it. During the news conference, Dr Maqsud ruled out that 'Arafat would explicitly recognize Israel. The United States described the decision to move the General Assembly as very harsh.

The PLO Executive Committee ended its meetings in Tunis yesterday under Yasir 'Arafat. It assessed the current situation in light of the PNC resolutions and the growing recognition of the Palestinian state. It also discussed the future political move in light of the U.S. position and the intransigent Israeli position that rejects peace.

Hurani said the Executive Committee has set up a political committee to draw up a plan for the various organs of the independent State of Palestine as well as the relevant domestic and foreign affairs. It also discussed a future plan to epitomize the establishment of the state and interpret the Algiers resolutions.

Hurani added that the committee discussed the final text of the speech 'Arafat will deliver before the General Assembly in Geneva this month, pointing out the speech will tackle the recent U.S. decision to deny 'Arafat an entry visa and that new paragraphs will analyze this position and its effects on the Palestinian trend toward peace in the Middle East.

Hurani also denied there is a plan to hold a PNC session to reply to the U.S. decision. He told AL-ANBA' that such a session is premature, explaining that such a session is not held to reply to a position, but to draw up a policy during a certain phase. He said the PLO will consider this issue after several months, adding the PNC will hold a session if the PLO's recent policies fail.

Hurani said the Palestinian leadership is seeking an Arab summit, adding that the PLO's policy and the large-scale support for it need a more comprehensive Arab position.

Asked about reports that in his speech in Geneva 'Arafat will go beyond the Algiers resolutions, Hurani said: Let me explain to you that this large-scale support that followed the U.S. decision to prevent 'Arafat from entering the United States has pleased the Palestinian leadership and, at the same time, it increased its responsibilities toward world public opinion. This made 'Arafat think that his speech should rise to the level of that support and persuade the world public that it was right when it supported the Palestine question.

Hurani added: It is no secret that the team preparing the speech is thinking about this point. He expressed hope the speech would respond to responsibilities and international ambition. He affirmed the speech will not go far from the PNC resolutions but will give other dimensions to them, explain some of their paragraphs, answer some questions by some people, and make further clarifications.

Al-Tarazi on Israel Recognition, U.S. Stand
JN0512201088 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic
4 Dec 88 p 1

[By Fali al-Sughayyar]

[Text] Zuhdi al-Tarazi, the PLO's observer at the United Nations, has said the U.S. Administration should deal with reality. He expressed hope that the whole world, particularly the Arab states, will compel the United States, through dealing with it, to confront this reality.

In a statement to AL-YAWM, he added we should deal with reality; namely, that there is something called Israel. He who rebuts this cannot deny that for the past 40 years we have been fighting this thing which has inflicted tragedies on us. We admit the fact Israel exists and that there is an occupation. We can then admit this occupation should end, he added.

Al-Tarazi asserted that the end [to occupation] cannot be brought about through theories but through a reality which is more effective than theories: This reality is the uprising; the stones have begun their work and their

specific goal is to end Israeli occupation, he said. Our endeavors are proceeding to achieve this goal and we are gradually getting closer to the creation of an atmosphere within Israel which will compel it to adopt a stand in the interest of both Israel and the region, he added.

Al-Tarazi said if Israel continues its current stand then the uprising will continue and Israel will be forced to pay a dear price for its intransigence. In his statement to AL-YAWM, Al-Tarazi said the uprising has confirmed it is stronger than Israeli weapons, U.S. bombs, and the funds granted to Israel by some friendly and allied states. He asserted that the strength of the Israeli reply now is equal to the strength of the Palestinian explosion.

DFLP Calls for World Recognition, Government
JN0512124488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1210 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] In a statement issued at the end of the meetings of its Central Committee, the DFLP called for the formation of a Palestinian provisional government and asked world countries to recognize the independent Palestinian state. It also stressed the need to escalate the uprising and to unite all the forces of the people in the occupied territories in terms of their popular committees and the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising, including the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

The DFLP greeted the Israeli peace-loving forces which support the uprising and the Palestinian state and call for the complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Algeria

President Appoints Army, Navy Officers

LD0512182788 Algiers Television Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] The president of the Republic, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has made the following appointments in the National People's Army:

Brigadier General Mohamed Atailia, inspector general of the National People's Army, replacing Brig Gen Hachemi Hadjeres, who has been appointed to another post.

Colonel Abdelmadjid Targhit, commander of the Navy.

Col Mohamed Mokhtar Boutamine, commander of the Regional Air Defense Force.

Col Ahmed Djenouhat, commander of the first military region.

Col Khelifa Rahim, commander of the second military region.

Col Mohamed Ghanim, commander of the fourth military region.

Col Mohamed Laamari, commander of the fifth military region.

Col Abdelmadjid Abdelhamid Djaouadi, commander of the sixth military region.

Col Mohamed Betchine, director of the Military Security Central Office.

Brig Gen Hocine Ben Malem, head of the Defense and Security Department at the Presidency of the Republic.

Libya's Jallud Received by President Bendjedid

LD0512203788 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received at the Presidency today Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud. The audience was attended by Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah, Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaïh, by Larbi Belkheir, director of the President's Office, and by the ambassadors of the two countries.

Following his audience with President Chadli Bendjedid, Staff Maj 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud made a statement:

[Begin recording] We appraised the unionist action between Libya and Algeria, particularly the federation project that is being put forward to the two peoples today and the need for work in this direction as well as the unity of the Arab Maghreb and the need to embark on earnest work in order to polarize this historic work. The

rest of the discussion included issues concerning our Arab nation, the Palestinian issue, and issues of mutual interest. Thank you. [end recording]

Staff Maj 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, left Algiers this afternoon following a short visit to our country. He was seen off at Houari Boumediene International Airport by Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah and by the ambassadors of the two countries.

Egypt

UKTUBAR Cites Mubarak on Al-Rayyan Issue

JN0612122088 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic
4 Dec 88 pp 3-5

[By Salah Muntasir]

[Text] Last week I wrote an article appealing to the government to give immediate help to Al-Rayyan Company depositors, who were surprised by events and deprived of their monthly incomes. Commenting on my article, President Husni Mubarak made a statement which I consider of interest to all citizens, not just the depositors. It is their right to know what the president said in this respect.

The president told me:

1. If the question of the depositors' funds in Al-Rayyan Company or any other company concerns any official in the government, then it concerns me even more. This is because I care about small investors, and I feel more for them and their problems.

2. I wished that all companies, or at least the major ones which the citizens entrusted with their funds, had rectified their situations under the law. All they had to do was submit a statement giving the total amount of deposits and stating whether these deposits are in Egypt or abroad.

3. Before issuing the law, we warned of the exaggerations made by some of these companies. And, when it became clear to us that one of these companies had lost many millions, we did not remain silent but announced these losses and warned people of them. Nevertheless, some depositors continued to deal with the companies. It was not possible or acceptable for these companies to continue to work without any control. So, we issued a law, the sole aim of which is to protect and guarantee the depositors' funds.

4. Many depositors wrote to me before the issuance of the law saying they were pleased with their relationship with these companies and that they were receiving from them interest of more than 20 percent annually; in other words, double the interest that could be given by any other saving fund. Some of them—and I still have their letters in my files—even spoke against government intervention and the issuance of any law. However, the

government, acting on its own sources of information, was aware of the great danger facing the depositors by continuing such a relationship with the companies without the protection of law.

At the same time, it was obvious that private companies could not undertake the work of banks, such as receiving deposits and giving interest and loans without any kind of control. Thus, when the story about the problems facing the Al-Rayyan brothers began to spread and the government issued its law, those who asked me in the past not to issue a law came back complaining about the government's delay in issuing this law. They are now complaining and regretting what they did.

The president told me:

5. To those who speak about Al-Barakah lists [lists of government officials receiving favors from capital investment companies] and demand that the government immediately release these lists, I say: How can you defend liberties and apply the principle that a suspect is innocent until proven guilty and still ask me to judge people on the basis of suspicions and rumors and turn them into criminals in the eyes of society? They must prove that they are innocent. If they cannot, justice will take its course.

What has so far been said about Al-Barakah lists are mere rumors. They may be correct, but they may also be wrong and unfair. It is not my policy or nature to run after rumors and to accuse a citizen on their basis, thereby exposing his wife, children, and relatives to public hatred.

Let me tell you a story. Last week, someone came and told me that Dr 'Abd al-Hamid Hasan, former governor of Al-Jizah, had fled from Egypt. You must have heard the rumor. The man was in his house. In fact, a few days later he was admitted to the hospital for treatment. When I was asked about his case, I said: This case can only be decided by justice. If the investigation authority has detected any mistakes, they should be referred to justice so that it can give its final say. What happened to the former governor of Al-Jizah—and I am not convicting the man, but using his case as an example in light of what has been rumored—confirms that not every rumor is correct. Whoever faces charges by a judicial investigation committee will be referred to justice. The government cannot protect him.

The president said:

You cannot imagine the amount of work that investigators of the Al-Rayyan company are doing. I wished that the matter would not reach an investigation, but the measures that we have taken did not aim to recover the state's rights with Al-Rayyan, but to secure and guarantee the rights and money of citizens who deposited with him.

On our part as a state, I declare that we do not want anything from the capital investment companies but to secure the citizens' rights and money and to invest them in legal actions that will serve the homeland, economy, and citizens. I will not be upset if a company makes a 100-percent profit as long as it deals in legitimate actions. I will be very happy if a citizen works and earns, because I know that any work he does will benefit the state.

From the 1st day I assumed my responsibility, I called for increased production—that is, to increase work. They used to warn me against visiting private projects. They used to say that, traditionally, the president only visits public sector projects. However, I told those who said such things to me: I am a president for the public and private sectors, and I am ready to visit any successful private sector project. As an individual, I will not get anything from this project, but my feeling about what it achieves for the state makes me happy, and that is why I encourage it.

The president said:

By the way, they have said that I visited Al-Rayyan while he was participating in one of the exhibitions and that I was filmed during the visit. True, I visited him like any other exhibitor. For those who want to interpret this visit as an approval certificate, I say to them: You can say this if on the day I visited the exhibition in which he took part I made a selection and visited some exhibitors and did not visit others. However, I have not done this and I do not think I will do this when I visit any exhibition.

On that day, I visited all exhibitors in that wing without discrimination and that visit, or video recording, was not an approval certificate or a recognition by the state of his legitimacy. The real legitimacy is by implementing the legislation that was issued. So, has he implemented it, or has he not?

The president said:

In the Al-Rayyan case, we had to use the emergency law and arrest some people. I say to the simple citizen and small depositor: Do you know why we resorted to this legislation? We have resorted to it for your sake, for your money. This despite the fact that one of the simplest principles used in capital investment companies states that the depositor is a partner in loss or profit. However, we as a state have rejected this, and we do what we are doing in investigations and contacts to recover the depositors' money. What is more, we began to hear accusations against the state that it is responsible, although on many occasions we had warned them. However, as I have said to you, depositors then used to say: We accept what is happening.

The president said:

Although I am aware of the pains of some depositors, I cannot pay any amount of money to any depositor these days for the following reasons:

1. No namelists have yet been prepared to know who the depositors are. If it happens and I said that I will pay one or two percent of the depositors' funds immediately, then, believe me, you will find that 20,000 or 30,000 citizens come suddenly to present forms claiming that they were depositors, and consequently demand that they should have their share of this first payment. This is a way of exploiting and wasting the depositors' funds, or paying them to other than their owners, at a time when the state's responsibility is to safeguard these funds and to pay them back to their true owners.

2. In addition to this, there is the spirit of justice that necessitates that I should divide the depositors into groups, because it would be unjust to treat equally he who has been taking loans from his deposit for 5 years, or retrieved 70 or 60 percent or less or more than this from his deposit, with the one who has retrieved nothing.

3. Where are the funds from which I should pay? Any primitive accountant knows that you cannot pay a penny from any project until after you know the volume of funds present in this project. I tell you that the legacy the state is examining in Al-Rayyan company is a heavy one, because there are no organized entry records or confirmed figures.

The president said:

Some say that the state should help the depositors. However, I regrettably say that the state cannot do this. Compensation could take place in rich countries. However, in a state that has our circumstances, which we know, the simplest of which is the 10,500-million-pound deficit in the state budget, I do not believe that I can extend any material aid to the depositors. The aid that I can extend, which I am really doing more than anyone can imagine, is to account for Al-Rayyan funds, which are the citizens' funds, and to track any funds outside the country with the objective of collecting as much funds as we can to tell the depositors that these are your funds that I have collected.

The president said:

The method of distribution has not yet been determined. The most important thing is to complete the accounting for Al-Rayyan funds and the preparation of the depositors lists. Some of the depositors themselves do not know how much money they have deposited. After this, we will account for all the possessions of the Al-Rayyan family. I repeat what I have said that if the state has due taxes, then the retrieval of the depositors' funds should be given priority over the state's due taxes. Regarding Al-Barakah lists, had there been such lists, I would have been the first to call on the one who knows about them to tell us where they are, but with proof.

In such matters, which have something to do with the honor of some people, I leave the issue to the legal investigation authorities, and I do not follow rumors. The rumors the citizens hear are no more than one percent of what I hear. Any top official hears many rumors about his employees, and if any top official in a certain position rules this position in accordance with the rumors he hears, then injustice would prevail in this position, so what about if this position were a state?

The president said:

For those who ask when we will pay back the depositors' funds, I say: We will not delay the payment process for 1 minute when we have accounted for all the company's elements. As I have said, some of the depositors themselves do not know how much funds they have deposited. Moreover, some depositors have mentioned in the forms they presented all the funds they have deposited without pointing out the funds they withdrew in the past years. So, does this mean that I should take what they have written as a fact, or just wait to know the truth? Only then, I will pay immediately, and there will be no delay.

USSR's Vorontsov Arrives in Cairo for Talks

NC0612064788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0629 GMT
6 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, and an accompanying delegation, arrived in Cairo from Riyadh on board a private plane early this morning. The visit comes after the conclusion of a round of negotiations between the Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet Government which was held at Al-Ta'if in Saudi Arabia.

Wafa' Hijazi, Egyptian assistant foreign minister, received Vorontsov at the airport on behalf of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Also present was Gennadiy Zhuravlev, the Soviet ambassador in Cairo.

The Soviet first deputy foreign minister is due to leave Cairo for his country at noon today.

Meets 'Abd al-Majid

NC0612102188 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0955 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, today. Vorontsov arrived in Cairo earlier this morning.

During the meeting, Vorontsov briefed Dr 'Abd al-Majid on the results of the discussions which the Soviets held with the Afghan Mujahidin in Al-Ta'if in Saudi Arabia in the past 2 days.

It should be recalled that Vorontsov is his country's ambassador to Afghanistan, in addition to serving as first deputy foreign minister.

Quoted on Peace in Afghanistan

NC0612122388 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1140 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Following his meeting today with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, stated that next year will be the year of peace in Afghanistan and that there will be no foreign presence, foreign troops, or fighting among the Afghans themselves. Vorontsov, who arrived in Cairo from Saudi Arabia this morning after chairing the Soviet delegation at the talks held in Al-Ta'if with a delegation of Afghan mujahidin, declared: "What we are trying to do now is to attain this objective".

In this connection, Vorontsov pointed out that during his 45-minute meeting with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, he briefed him on the results of the talks in Saudi Arabia which dealt with ways of halting the war in Afghanistan and achieving peace in that region. He said that 'Abd al-Majid would convey this information to President Husni Mubarak.

In his statement, Vorontsov asserted that the time has come to establish peace in Afghanistan and set up an Afghan government that would reflect the Muslim nature of the Afghan people. He noted that the present requirement is to halt the fighting and end all military activities in Afghanistan.

Concerning reaction to the talks between the Soviet delegation, which he chaired, and the Afghan mujahidin delegation, the Soviet first deputy foreign minister, who is also the Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan, said that reactions from Islamic countries had been positive, notably in both Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

He affirmed that the USSR will continue its efforts to attain peace in Afghanistan.

Vorontsov is due to leave Cairo later today after a brief visit to Egypt lasting several hours.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC0612131388 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1245 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet deputy foreign minister, left Cairo today after a short visit to Egypt that lasted for 7 hours. During his visit he met with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

'Abd al-Majid on Reconciliation With Syria

NC0512143588 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1330 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has commended the recent PNC resolutions in Algiers due to their rationalism and renunciation of terrorism.

During his meeting with Arab news agency bureau chiefs in Cairo today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid emphasized that the upcoming stage makes it incumbent upon the Arab nation to make strenuous efforts, coordinate stands, and prepare for a frank discussion without favoritism or harm to any side.

During the meeting, Dr 'Abd al-Majid welcomed the efforts that are being made to achieve reconciliation between Egypt and Syria. He said: Egypt is not opposed to opening a new page provided the other sides demonstrate both desire and good intentions so that we can proceed to international meetings as one unit representing civilized people who might have differences but at the end represent one unit: The Arab nation.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister went on to say that the current stage shows that there is more understanding of the Arab stands and dialogue even with the states with whom we differ. He emphasized: Our issues should not be handled with emotionalism, but with appreciation and determination. The main goal of everyone is to consolidate the ties among the Arab peoples and leaders.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid then reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East area, particularly the Palestinian issue.

'Progress' Noted in Mediation With Libya

JN0612103288 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0930 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Dec (WAKH)—Informed political sources in Cairo have said that noticeable progress has been made in the mediation efforts launched by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to clear the air between Egypt and Libya.

In today's issue, the Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD quotes these sources as saying that Egypt is studying a Libyan demand regarding Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi's desire to meet with Egyptian officials to discuss bilateral differences.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, earlier described the mediation effort launched between Egypt and Libya as an important but limited step.

It is worth recalling that Egypt agreed to open its airspace to Libyan planes and that it also welcomed the mediation efforts to normalize Egyptian-Syrian relations.

The informed political sources said that 'Arafat told Egyptian President Husni Mubarak during their Cairo talks a few days ago that leader Al-Qadhdhafi has a genuine desire to join the march of Arab solidarity and that this desire will produce results only through clearing the air and normalizing relations between Egypt and Libya.

The Libyan leader also voiced his desire to personally meet with Egyptian officials to discuss bilateral differences. He also wished that Egypt would agree to send senior officials to Libya to achieve this objective.

UN Speech Considers Palestinian Issue

NC0612105188 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0830 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Excerpt] New York, 6 Dec (MENA)—The delegates of the UN member countries who addressed the UN General Assembly at the beginning of its discussions of the Middle East situation yesterday were unanimous in their view that an international conference is the only way to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, provided that all parties attend it on a parity basis, including the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole representative.

Most of the speakers emphasized the significance of recent Middle East developments. They singled out the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, about to enter its second year, Jordan's decision to sever its legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, and, finally, the recent PNC resolutions and the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state. They noted that these resolutions are a positive step in the direction of finding a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis.

In the speech of its permanent delegate to the United Nations, Egypt affirmed that the PNC's open acceptance, at its recent Algiers meeting, of UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian issue, foremost of which are Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, should be the beginning of an international movement. This would result in the holding of an international conference for peace in the Middle East, under UN auspices and with the participation of all parties concerned.

The delegate said that such a conference is the best way of attaining a comprehensive and lasting settlement, as it will provide the best framework for negotiations among the parties concerned, including the Palestinian people's representatives. He declared that no arrangement of the regional situation is possible without these representatives being taken into account.

In this connection, Egypt urged the two superpowers to shoulder their responsibility and to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East. Egypt also referred to the importance of the EC's role in establishing peace in the Middle East. It asserted that the EC, which reacted positively to the proclamation of a Palestinian state, may develop its position and role with further dialogue and meetings with representatives of the Palestinians, particularly in light of the historical and cultural ties between Europe, the Levant, and the rest of the Arab world.

Egypt stressed that the proclamation of a Palestinian state and the political statement outlining its policies are two major steps toward the activation of the issue of establishing a lasting peace in accordance with the principles accepted by the international community. Egypt remarked that the UN General Assembly's Resolution No 181 of 1947, pertaining to the partition of Palestine, continues to provide conditions of international legitimacy that guarantee the Palestinian people's right to independence alongside Israel within its pre-1967 borders and in accordance with UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

Egypt asserted that it would be a grave error of Israel's or other parties' to disregard this development and the rare opportunity it provides for movement toward peace. The only alternative will be a shrinking of prospects for peace that the Middle East badly needs.

Egypt said that now that the Palestinians have demonstrated the sincerity of their peace policy, the hope has been and remains that various parties will move to meet them halfway, or at least to establish channels of contact and understanding with their legitimate representatives, instead of shutting doors. Egypt noted that shutting doors would encourage extremist tendencies and foster violence on all sides.

Egypt called on Israel to prove its goodwill to its sons, the international community, and humanity by choosing to establish a just and honorable peace through its withdrawal from all Arab occupied territories, including Syrian Golan.

Egypt warned against introducing or threatening to introduce nuclear weapons into the region because this is bound to hamper efforts to stabilize the situation and bring the danger of an unprecedented escalation of confrontations.

Egypt expressed the hope that all countries of the region, including Israel, will sign the nonproliferation treaty, commit themselves to its provisions, and open their nuclear facilities to inspection by IAEA representatives. In the speech, Egypt notes that it signed this treaty several years ago.

In his speech to the UN General Assembly, Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations referred to developments in the Iran-Iraq dispute. He expressed Egypt's sincere appreciation of the UN secretary general's determined efforts to arrive at a lasting settlement for this dispute. There was a positive development in this dispute last August, when the fighting stopped, and the two sides accepted UN Resolution No 598, he said.

Touching on the situation in Lebanon, Egypt expressed concern and regret for the deterioration of conditions in that country to a point where the Lebanese were unable to elect a new president before the constitutional deadline. Egypt called on the international community to end foreign intervention in Lebanon and to provide a favorable atmosphere which will enable the Lebanese to develop a formula for national reconciliation of their own free will, to maintain the country's unity and independence. [passage omitted]

AL-AKHBAR Cited on 'Arafat Visa Decision
NC0412062888 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2247 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Egyptian newspapers have continued their criticism of the U.S. decision not to grant PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat a visa to enter its territory to address the UN General Assembly. They describe this as a foolish and ridiculous decision, which distorted the U.S. image and revealed its policy was directed by Zionists and Jews.

In tomorrow's edition, AL-AKHBAR says that the arbitrary U.S. stand has unveiled numerous things, which any U.S. official should remember before making a similar decision in the future. Perhaps the most important of these, the paper adds, is that any party, even if it were the strongest and most influential country in the world, cannot prevent a man who believes in his cause from declaring his opinion, no matter how much effort is made to place obstacles in his way. This was apparent in the agreement of most of the international community on the proposal to transfer the debate to the organization's headquarters in Geneva, away from the Zionist influence which affects the government and Congress in Washington.

The paper says that U.S. enemies, even if they spent billions of dollars to distort the U.S. image and to unveil its policy, which is being directed by the Zionists and Jews, would not be able to achieve a trivial portion of what Shultz' arbitrary decision, that lacks legal justification, has achieved. The paper notes that Shultz has realized that his country has lost much as a result of his ridiculous decision. This is because the stand of the overwhelming majority of the countries in and outside the United Nations has been one of denunciation and condemnation of the U.S. position, which is flagrantly biased against a people who have suffered much because of Washington's declared policies supporting any Israeli aggression against it.

The paper remarks that the only gain which Shultz and others have achieved is the satisfaction of Tel Aviv's leaders and the American Zionist groups. It adds that this is a trivial gain, which does not match what has been inflicted upon the United States and its reputation. [passage omitted]

Editorial on U.S. 'Arrogance' in Visa Denial
JN0512193588 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
4 Dec 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Justifications"]

[Text] It does not serve any useful purpose to tell the United States that by refusing Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa the United States, as a host nation, was in breach of its agreement with the United Nations. As the Americans, or, at any rate, some of those in the administration, see it: While the United States recognizes the validity of the headquarters agreement, the American Congress gives the administration the prerogative to bar any person with terrorist credentials from the United States.

However, given the panoramic view of the administration, it can afford to be selective in its application of the legal criteria judged against the United States' perceived interests on the one hand and other parties' interests on the other. Besides, the person in question is a universally-acknowledged leader with considerable regional influence. Further, 'Arafat represents a people whose right to self-determination has been recognized by the United Nations. He has also publicly renounced terrorism and met all the requirements for a dialogue with the United States.

'Arafat has also embarked on a process that has won universal approval—the test he had been required to pass. 'Arafat would not have brought along weapons and explosives. Indeed, he would not have come to the United States proper, but to the United Nations.

All that the United States is entitled to do, on national security grounds, based on the pertinent congressional decision, is to keep 'Arafat from leaving the UN compound for American territory outside the headquarters.

Insisting on the letter of the decision and singling out 'Arafat is bound to cause other future complications the United States will have to deal with, when it finds that it applies equally to other figures who have usually been allowed on American territory. American newspapers themselves often explicitly enough call for such people to be barred from the United States, basing their case on the congressional decision. Such fascination with the decision in the case of 'Arafat is symptomatic of a failure to grasp objective international realities because emotionalism or vindictiveness, or even an arrogant sense of power, have been allowed to dominate without considering the potential damage to the U.S. image overseas or the short- and long-term interests of the United States.

Whatever the justifications of the American action, the impression it has produced in the region and around the world is one of an arrogant America, particularly since it marked a virtual defiance to regional and worldwide sentiments and aspirations. Adherence to the decision by other American officials following Shultz's own, was tantamount to throwing the gauntlet to the whole world. Part of this arrogance was manifest in the statement by the U.S. delegate that Washington rejects both the content and tone of the UN General Assembly's resolution, since it deplores the American position and calls for honoring the headquarters agreement.

Comments on Requirements for 'Battle of Peace'

NC0512174388 Cairo Domestic Service
in Arabic 1240 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Ahmad al-Qasir commentary: "The Battle of Peace Requires Intensive Arab Diplomatic Efforts"]

[Excerpts] The issue of barring Yasir 'Arafat from the UN Headquarters in New York has ended in victory for the will of the international community. The debate on the Palestinian issue has been transferred to the UN European headquarters in Geneva and will take place from 13 to 15 December. The issue also resulted in a sweeping international victory and support for the PLO, which the PLO did not expect. More accurately, the whole issue ended with worldwide support for the Palestinian peaceful will that emerged during the PNC meetings in Algiers.

Therefore, the Arabs and the PLO must not waste their time in criticizing the U.S. decision against 'Arafat, because something more important is awaiting them; namely, beginning the true battle of peace. This tiring battle requires adopting a general pan-Arab strategy and making available all opportunities and potential necessary for its implementation. This will ensure that the ultimate goal of the Arabs and Palestinians is reached: A just peace, an independent Palestinian state, and peaceful coexistence with Israel. [passage omitted]

It would be a mistake to say that the battle of peace will start in the middle of the month in Geneva. Egypt has already experienced a tedious battle of peace with Israel. It ended with the liberation of Sinai and the return of Tabah, thanks to Egypt's calm, realistic, and balanced diplomacy. Later on, Egypt and fraternal Jordan began their arduous march to support the Palestinian issue at the various international and regional arenas, with the result that they managed to sell the idea of the international peace conference to the world community, even inside Israel and the United States. [passage omitted]

Another round of the diplomatic battle will begin in Geneva with the arrival of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and his brothers, the foreign ministers of the Arab states, to back Yasir 'Arafat, the legal representative of the Palestinian voice. From the rostrum of the United Nations, 'Arafat will stress the Palestinians' desire for a just peace,

clear away any ambiguity or doubts over the Algiers resolutions, ask the world to help the Palestinian people live freely on their national soil in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and emphasize the PLO's respect for the UN conventions and the principles of international law.

Naturally, the current atmosphere of Arab solidarity, as clearly demonstrated by Egypt's exchanges with Jordan, Iraq, the PLO, and the rest of the Arab brothers, as well as the Jordanian-Palestinian current understanding, constitute a positive factor in supporting the Arab diplomacy that will frustrate whoever attempts to cast doubts on the sincerity of the Arab intentions with a view to undermine the peace process.

The Palestinian and pan-Arab diplomatic efforts in the coming stage must explain to the entire world that the Palestinian-Arab desire for peace is not a tactical maneuver, but a strategic objective that seeks to benefit all the peoples in the region. These efforts must underline the PLO's readiness to hold a dialogue with all the parties concerned, particularly with the new U.S. Administration under President-elect Bush, because of its proximity to the peace process and its ties with Israel.

Such a dialogue is bound to pave the road for convening an international conference for peace to be attended by all the parties concerned. In addition, the establishment of peace in the Middle East would promote international peace, protect the interests of the major states and Western Europe in the Arab region, contribute to boosting the detente between the two superpowers, and eliminate all signs of international hegemony over the countries of the region.

U.S. Withdrawal of Nuclear Aid Discussed

PM0212124488 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
29 Nov 88 pp 1-2

[Muhammad Radwan report: "United States Withdraws Contribution to Egyptian Nuclear Program"]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that the United States has decided to withdraw its offer to provide a loan via the USAID to help implement the Egyptian nuclear program and set up a number of alternative power plants needed in Egypt. Furthermore, certain European states have also gone back on their offer to provide the technical expertise needed to establish the plants.

The nuclear power plants authority held a seminar in Al-Dab'ah in cooperation with the Al-Ahram Strategic Studies Center, which was attended by the authority's officials and the majority of the Strategic Studies Center's professors. Officials refused to disclose details of the discussions of the U.S. refusal to participate in setting up the power plants or of other issues discussed.

The authority's chairman, Dr 'Ali al-Sa'idi, announced that there would be no problem in financing the stations Egypt has decided to set up until the year 2000, and that a surplus of \$750 million from oil revenue has been allocated by the energy fund to power generation projects.

In a sort of reply to the U.S. decision he said that Egypt is fully capable of introducing nuclear technology, the IAEA having placed Egypt at the top of a list of 14 states capable of using nuclear energy.

Sources Cited on Military Aid Talks With U.S.

PM0612105688 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 4 Dec 88 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Reaffirms Red Sea Arabism and Rejects Cooperation With United States and Israel To Protect It"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the military talks held between Egypt and the United States in Washington over the past 2 weeks focused on Egypt's requests for effective military capabilities under the military aid program.

The sources said that during the talks the Egyptian side asked for helicopters and naval patrol aircraft to tackle any possible threats in the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, especially from states possessing submarines.

During the talks the Egyptian side reaffirmed Egypt's desire to secure additional U.S. financial aid and free access to advanced U.S. military equipment in accordance with the military memorandum of understanding between the two countries. It emphasized the need for a positive response to Egypt's calls for an increase in annual military aid and flexibility in the use of this aid according to Egypt's military needs.

Meanwhile, diplomatic reports from Cairo say that Egypt has emphatically rejected the idea of tripartite military cooperation with the United States and Israel to tackle the threats to the Red Sea. It stressed that this is the Arab states' task within a framework of full Arab coordination.

The Egyptian military delegation headed by Deputy Defense Minister Major General 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Tawil returned to Cairo yesterday at the end of a 2-week visit to Washington.

The president said:

Although I am aware of the pains of some depositors, I cannot pay any amount of money to any depositor these days for the following reasons:

1. No namelists have yet been prepared to know who the depositors are. If it happens and I said that I will pay one or two percent of the depositors' funds immediately, then, believe me, you will find that 20,000 or 30,000 citizens come suddenly to present forms claiming that they were depositors, and consequently demand that they should have their share of this first payment. This is a way of exploiting and wasting the depositors' funds, or paying them to other than their owners, at a time when the state's responsibility is to safeguard these funds and to pay them back to their true owners.

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Libya

'Arafat Arrives for Talks, Makes Statement

LD0512193188 Tripoli JANA in English
1822 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—At noon today Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Tripoli on a visit to Great Jamahiriyyah.

In a statement to JANA, he said: "I shall take the opportunity of this visit to hold consultations with my brother the leader of the revolution on the developments of the Palestinian cause, especially the stubborn attitude of the U.S. Administration by barring me from delivering the Palestine speech to the U.N. General Assembly despite the opposition and renunciation from all members of the General Assembly against the U.S. Administration's decision—except the Zionist enemy".

Yasir 'Arafat hailed in his statement the backing and supporting attitude from all the Arab countries and the friendly states in Asia, Africa and Latin America in confronting the U.S. illegal decision.

Concluding his statement, Yasir 'Arafat asserted that the popular revolution, being led by the generation of anger inside occupied Palestine, against the savages of the 20th Century, will continue and escalate until the Zionist occupation of Palestine comes to an end.

Departs Tripoli 5 Dec

LD0612012688 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab
Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Brother [Yasir] 'Arafat and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli yesterday after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyyah.

Chadian Information Minister Arrives 5 Dec

LD0512190388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1815 GMT
5 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Dec (JANA)—Chadian Information Minister Brother Adoum Moussa Seif and an accompanying delegation arrived this evening in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyyah.

The Chadian information minister made a statement to JANA in which he stressed the depth of the historic relations between the Arab Libyan and Chadian peoples. He said that the peoples of the Great Jamahiriyyah and Chad are linked by common history, religion, and neighborliness. He pointed out that the Chadian people appreciate the initiative of the brother leader of the revolution and his gift to Africa on the 25th anniversary of the creation of the OAU.

The Chadian information minister voiced his pleasure and that of his delegation at visiting the Great Jamahiriyyah and said that we are endeavoring to strengthen and consolidate relations between the two brotherly peoples.

Meets With Official

LD0512215688 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison met this evening with Chadian Information Minister Adoum Moussa. During the meeting they examined and reviewed bilateral relations and stressed the necessity of developing and consolidating relations in various fields. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives ICO's Pirzada

LD0512150688 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT
5 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has received Mr. Sharifuddin Pirzada, sec. gen. of the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Mr. Pirzada has extended to the leader of the revolution the appreciation and thanks of his organization to him and the Libyan Arab people for the support and assistance given to his organization to discharge its mission.

Mr. Pirzada has also extended his thanks and regards to the leader of the revolution for the close attention and support he gives to matters relating to Muslims worldwide.

Sudan

Foreign Minister, Garang To Meet Within 2 Days
NC0512155288 Paris AFP in English 1511 GMT
5 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 5 (AFP)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu Salih is to meet John Garang, head of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), within the next two days, a member of Sudan's Supreme Council, or collegiate presidency, said here Monday.

'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, of the Al-Ummah party, said that the council had named a delegate, Abu Salih, to inform Colonel Garang of the government's approval of a peace accord signed on November 16 in Addis Ababa between the SPLM and another party in the ruling coalition, the Democratic Unionists (DUP).

The new meeting in the Ethiopian capital would centre on the setting up of two commissions to lay the groundwork for a long-proposed national constitutional conference to discuss Sudan's problems. This conference, according to the SPLM-DUP pact, is to be held from December 31.

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, also of the Al-Ummah Party, announced plans last Thursday to set up the commissions.

He said then that "all political forces" in Khartoum, with the exception of the fundamentalist National Islamic Front, had approved the peace pact, and that even the Islamic party was nevertheless in favour of a constitutional conference.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), armed wing of the SPLM, has been fighting a bush war since 1983 to free the mainly black, Christian and animist south from domination by the Arab Moslem north.

The conflict was fuelled by the imposition of Islamic Shari'ah law by then President Ja'far Numayri, and one of the points of the SPLM-DUP pact signed in Addis Ababa calls for the planned extension of shari'a to the south to be "frozen."

Two Sudanese daily papers, AL-USBU' and THE SUDAN TIMES, reported Monday that Col. Garang was in Cairo seeking Egyptian backing for the peace accord. AL-USBU' said further talks between the rebel leader and the DUP could take place in Egypt.

THE SUDAN TIMES said that the Khartoum government had been informed of Col. Garang's presence in Cairo by Egypt, but added that Sudanese officials had refused to comment.

In Cairo, a reliable source Monday denied the presence of the rebel leader, but said a four-member SPLA delegation had been in the Egyptian capital since Sunday, seeking to discuss implications of the Addis Ababa accord.

Sudan, the largest country in Africa, became formally independent with reluctant recognition from a British-Egyptian condominium on January 1, 1956. Khartoum has remained politically and economically close to Egypt since.

SPLM Denies Knowledge of Cease-Fire Meeting
NC0512162688 Paris AFP in English 1613 GMT
5 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Addis Ababa, Dec 5 (AFP)—The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) said Monday that it had received no communication from the Khartoum government concerning a meeting here on a ceasefire in the civil war in south Sudan.

Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced on Sunday that he was sending a delegation to the Ethiopian capital for talks on a ceasefire with the SPLM's armed wing, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Mr al-Mahdi suggested in an interview with the BBC that a ceasefire could go into force within two weeks following the meeting.

"We heard the news on the radio this morning", a spokesman for the SPLM told AFP. "Even if a delegation were here from Khartoum, there is none on our side ready to meet them," he added. [passage omitted]

Islamic Front's Taha Cited on Peace Prospects
PM0612101888 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 3 Dec 88 p 3

[Interview with National Islamic Front Deputy Secretary General 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha by Al-Sir Sayid Ahmad in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ahmad] Upon its return from Addis Ababa, where it signed a peace agreement with the SPLM, the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] delegation was warmly received and welcomed by all political forces. You, however, have opposed that agreement from the very outset. Do you not see anything positive in it?

[Taha] The true and objective explanation of the National Islamic Front's [NIF] position on the issue of peace in the south is that it fully believes in the need for peace, which can only be achieved through an objective dialogue. But when the accord government was formed, we thought that a lesson had been learned from the previous isolated initiatives, which were deficient both tactically and conceptually. They did not express a unified stand. We thought that the appropriate thing would be to start from where the previous initiatives ended. This was our first observation about the DUP's

initiative. Furthermore, we believe that the DUP would have been in a stronger position had it made contacts with the forces inside the country. This is our second observation about the way the initiative was conducted.

As for the clauses of the agreement, we believe that the DUP has brought nothing more than was stipulated in the first Koka Dam agreement. Political forces adopted a clear position toward that agreement. The DUP itself rejected it, so did the NIF. Later the Ummah Party went back on it. In fact the official position of the present government indicates that the matter has even gone beyond that agreement.

[Ahmad] But there are major differences between the Koka Dam agreement and the Addis Ababa agreement, which the DUP signed. The former talks about abolishing the September Laws, whereas the latter talks about freezing them. The former calls for a return to the 1974 secular laws, whereas the latter leaves the matter to the constitutional conference, for which it has set a date. The Koka Dam agreement did not set a date.

[Taha] With regard to the substance, the differences correspond to events on the scene. The political forces have unanimously agreed that there will be no return to the 1974 laws. Alternative laws are being prepared. Thus there is no room for talking about secular laws. When the idea was whether to abolish or keep the September Laws, the SPLM wanted abolition. But now that there is talk about issuing new laws, the movement talks about freezing—which means that it is opposing the political will inside the country. It is known that the movement primarily seeks abolition, but it has accepted freezing for tactical reasons. We would have liked the DUP to stipulate that its main position would be to apply the Islamic Shari'ah, in order to eliminate any misunderstanding. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] Do you not believe that if this initiative fails, the internal front would divide and military action would escalate against John Garang, who could thus secure more support on the pretext that the government did not respond to the call for peace?

[Taha] Actually, military supplies to the movements have been growing despite all the peace initiatives—all 10 of them made by the forces inside the country. This is why I do not think that this initiative will be the end of the road. But from it we can learn lessons for the next stages. This is why we have called for the formation of a people's committee to study the situation.

[Ahmad] If the initiative collapses because of the Shari'ah issue, do you believe Sudan will be able to secure outside aid to continue the war for the sake of applying the Shari'ah, despite the regional and international sensitivities that the issue is creating?

[Taha] I do not think that the initiative will collapse because of the shari'a alone. There are also the cease-fire issue and the lifting of the state of emergency, which is stipulated in the initiative

[Ahmad] It is being said that the NIF's rejection of the initiative is based on political considerations, as it has grown and expanded at the expense of the DUP, whose success could make it regain its lost ground.

[Taha] Political competition is legitimate. But I stress that our position on the initiative is based on objective reasons, namely, to ensure that the initiative is not merely a maneuver designed to split internal ranks, especially within the government. A final peace agreement can only be secured through the participation of all political forces, especially the major ones. The final result will not be the achievement of any one party in particular. We do not confuse the issue of higher national interests with that of political advantages.

Further Reportage on Visit of Libya's Jabir

Received in Kurdufan

LD0512155588 Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT
5 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, Al-Kanun [December] 5, JAMAHIRI-YAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, accompanied by Mr. al-Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the Supreme Council of sisterly Sudan, visited Kurdufan Province and was officially and popularly received there at Al-Abyad airport.

He was received by Mr. A. al-Nur, governor of this province and a number of its ministers, apart from a large number of the brotherly Sudanese people.

These masses carried the green flags and copies of the Green Book chanting in support of the great Al-Fatih revolution and its leader calling for the necessity of achieving the overall Arab unity.

In his speech before these masses, Col. Jabir expresses his pleasure to visit this province, part of sisterly Sudan and the Arab nation.

He asserts that the relation between the two brotherly peoples in Great al-Jamahiriyah and Sudan have been built and developed in an atmosphere rife with the spirit of Jihad.

This relation has been built on the land of Great al-Jamahiriyah from the combative groups who crossed thousands of kilometres closing ranks with the brotherly Sudanese people and were able to defeat the puppet rule and the centres of influence under which our Sudanese people went through for 17 years.

Concluding his speech, Col. Jabir has reaffirmed that the responsibility of combating the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary forces is shouldered by the living force of the masses of sisterly Sudan.

He adds that Sudan is capable of redeeming peace, imposing its will, combatting imperialism, building a civilization on its land and achieving the overall Arab unity.

Meanwhile, Mr. 'Abd al-Rasul al-Nur, governor of Kordufan Province, in his speech, relayed the greetings and support and love of the masses in his province to brotherly leader of revolution Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, the guardian of Arabism. He adds that the Sudanese masses shall not forget the great pioneering role assumed by Great Al-Jamahiriyyah in supporting Sudan during the time of the plight and draught it was in.

Opens Cultural Center

LD0512154588 Tripoli JANA in English 1428 GMT
5 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, Al-Kanun [December] 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, opened yesterday in Khartoum the Libyan Arab Cultural Centre.

A massive celebration was conducted and was attended by the ministers of social welfare, education and higher education, apart from the minister of state for the affairs of the presidential palace and the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in sisterly Sudan, not to mention a large number of heads and members of the Diplomatic Arab and non-Arab missions accredited to Sudan and a number of people interested in culture and academic studies in Sudan.

Signs Agreement, Departs

LD0612113988 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT
6 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 6 December (SUNA)—Libyan defense minister and commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir left here yesterday for his country, concluding a (?working) visit to Sudan.

A joint statement was signed yesterday by the prime minister, Sadiq al-Mahdi, and Col Jabir. According to the statement, Libya will also establish a university in Sudan, build a highway between Al-Kufrah in Libya and the western Sudanese town of Al-Fashir, besides assisting Sudan in the field of communication.

Minister of Information Abdullah Muhammad Ahmad, who is the official spokesman of the Sudanese government, said the statement included intensification of air flights between the two countries and issuing of remittance for the Sudanese working in Libya. A joint bank would be opened as well as the establishment of many factories in collaboration with the Sudanese Ministry of Industry, the minister added. He pointed out that Sudan would offer scholarships to the Libyan students and grant facilities to the Libyan holding companies in accordance with the current investment laws in the Sudan.

As for the proposed Sudanese-Libya union charter, the spokesman said "although the aspiration was to put it (?in) its official and popular form but the political forces had differed on it." [sentence as received]

The information minister announced that a number of technical committees are due to start work at mid-December to follow up the implementation of the joint agreements. He added that he would leave for Libya within two weeks to complete some issues pertinent to agreement reached between Libya and Sudan in the field of information.

State Council Issues Decree on Palestine

EA0212212588 Omdurman National Unity Radio
in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] The State Council issued Decree No 252 for 1988 on the recognition of the Palestinian state.

The decree provides that the Republic of Sudan fully and officially recognizes the independent and sovereign Palestinian state on its national soil.

Sudan also recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state and acknowledges the principle of diplomatic representation of this state at the embassy level.

Bahrain

U.S. Defense Secretary Departs After Visit

JN0612123088 *Manama WAKH in Arabic* 1150 GMT
6 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 6 Dec (WAKH)—U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci left Manama today following a 2-day visit to the State of Bahrain paid during a trip that will take him to a number of the region's states.

During the visit, Carlucci conveyed a message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain. He also held talks with Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, Bahraini defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, on issues of common interest.

Carlucci was seen off by the Bahraini defense minister; Staff Brigadier General Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, chief of staff; and a number of officials.

Kuwait

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Mujahidin-Soviet Talks

LD0612110288 *Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic*
1000 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] An official spokesman from the Foreign Ministry has made the following statement:

The Islamic world has followed with great interest the rounds of meetings between the delegation representing the Afghan mujahidin and the official delegation from the Soviet Union under the auspices of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait welcomes and expresses deep satisfaction with this important step, characterized by the spirit of great responsibility for peace and justice. It stresses the need to consolidate all well-intentioned efforts to restore peace and stability to Afghanistan and its Muslim people.

The State of Kuwait also hopes that all these efforts will be crowned with total success and will resolve all pending issues related to the Afghan cause according to the Geneva agreement under UN supervision.

The State of Kuwait is also pleased to express its great respect for the positive and practical role played by the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which under directives from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, brought together the parties concerned around the negotiating table on its pure soil. This gave these meetings great importance which, God willing, will strengthen Islamic solidarity among the Islamic states so that peace and stability may prevail in the region and throughout the world.

Iraqi RCC Deputy Chairman Arrives on Visit

LD0512100088 *Kuwait KUNA in Arabic* 0916 GMT
5 Dec 88

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Dec (KUNA)—Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Iraqi RCC, arrived here today on an official visit to Kuwait at the head of an official delegation which includes a number of Iraqi officials.

On his arrival, he was received by the Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; a number of senior Kuwaiti officials; the Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait; and members of the diplomatic corps in Kuwait.

There is no immediate information about the Iraqi officials's visit.

Conveys Saddam Husayn Message

LD0512134788 *Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic*
1000 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Excerpt] At 1130 today, his highness the amir received His Excellency 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council in the fraternal Iraqi Republic, and his accompanying delegation. The Iraqi official conveyed to his highness, may God protect him, a message from his brother, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Holds 'Closed' Meeting With Amir

JN0512122288 *Baghdad INA in English* 1050 GMT
5 Dec 88

[Text] Kuwait, Dec. 5, INA—Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, amir of Kuwait received Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim, the Iraqi vice-chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC).

The meeting was attended by Mr. Sa'd al-'Abdallah Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister; Mr. Faysal 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Khalid, the minister of trade and industry; Mr. Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, the foreign undersecretary; and a number of officials and the Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait attended the meeting for the Iraqi side.

Afterwards, a closed-door meeting comprising Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the amir of Kuwait, Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim the vice-chairman of the Revolution Command Council and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Salim al-Sabah, the crown prince and prime minister, was held.

Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim had arrived here today leading a delegation on an official visit to Kuwait.

Meets With Prime Minister

JN0612115488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0933 GMT
6 Dec 88

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Dec (INA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, received here today RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim.

The meeting was attended on the Kuwaiti side by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Faysal 'Abd al-Raziq al-Khalid, minister of trade and industry and head of the escort mission; and Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry.

On the Iraqi side, the meeting was attended by Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and members of the accompanying delegation.

RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, held a round of talks attended by members of both delegations.

RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim expressed his gratitude to the Kuwaiti brothers for their stands and support for Iraq which embodied the depth of the brotherly relations that bond the two fraternal countries and their common action.

He said that the stand of Kuwait and other brothers in their direct support and comprehensive outlook toward the nature of the conflict and the Iranian enemy's intentions against Iraq and the Arab nation represented the responsible aware stand and was marked by courage, sacrifice, and patience.

'Izzat Ibrahim also reviewed developments of the direct talks between Iraq and Iran to achieve comprehensive peace and implement Security Council Resolution 598. He asserted that Iran tries to choose clauses of the resolution according to its whims and this explains Iran's attempt to use the opportunities according to its narrow interests and the deceptive policy pursued by the Iranian regime.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah welcomed the visit of 'Izzat Ibrahim and his accompanying delegation. He said the visit will contribute toward strengthening the existing brotherly relations between the two countries.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah also renewed the congratulations to Iraq and its people, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, for the victory it achieved. He said that this victory was a victory for the Arab nation, right, justice, and all human values.

He also expressed hope that comprehensive peace will be achieved and that through negotiations, Iraq and Iran will be able to reach a formula that will contribute toward entrenching stability and security in the region.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations and means to improve them in all fields and Arab issues of mutual concern.

[Baghdad INA in Arabic at 0938 GMT on 6 December reports the following: "RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, today held a closed meeting. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister."]

Chief of Staff Leaves for U.S. With Delegation

LD0412111188 Kuwait KUNA in English 0943 GMT
4 Dec 88

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 4 (KUNA)—Kuwait Chief of Staff Major General Mizyad 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sani Monday left here for Washington on an official three-week visit to the United States.

He told KUNA in a departure statement that the visit comes in response to an invitation by U.S. Commander of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the U.S. Defence Ministry Admiral Crowe.

Al-Sani is accompanied during the visit by a military delegation that represents different arms in Kuwaiti Armed Forces.

AL-QABAS Criticizes Decision on 'Arafat Visa

JN0412074388 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
1 Dec 88 p 1

[Editorial: "It Is Not Strange of Washington"]

[Text] More dangerous than not granting Mr 'Arafat a U.S. visa to prevent him from addressing public opinion from the most important international podium is how some Arab sides view the Shultz decision. They tend to try to justify it rather than analyzing it objectively as continuing U.S. policy.

If some Arabs attribute the U.S. refusal to a struggle inside the U.S. Administration, to current Zionist pressures, and to a personal stand by Shultz on the Palestinians, these explanations do not really explain U.S. reality. They try to justify the refusal, hoping that the picture will change when Bush enters the White House.

U.S. reality can be deduced through a study of Washington's record in the Middle East from the Arab surge with 'Abd al-Nasir to the Arab fall with Camp David and from Camp David to this day. This record reveals the daily accounts of aggressive U.S. stands on Arab issues and its bias toward the aggressor, the Israeli side, in all events. They also provide the Zionist enemy opportunities for aggression by arming it with great quantities of developed arms, fortifying it against possible Arab revenge through a strategic cooperation agreement, and always supporting it against Palestinian and Arab rights.

Washington's refusal to grant 'Arafat a visa is a decision condemned by even the most faithful friends of the United States. This is clear evidence that the United States is willing to support the Israeli side and not stand against the Arabs only, but the whole world.

Therefore, it is incorrect to justify Shultz' stand without affirming that it is part of U.S. strategic policy in the Middle East. This stand is in full harmony with this policy and does not contradict it any way. The U.S. aim is to ensure that Israel has the upper hand and not to secure justice and fairness. Otherwise, the Israelis would pack their bags and leave.

It is useless, in the first place, to compromise with the United States to get it to agree to talk to us about our rights. U.S. intransigence toward us is a strategy that will not change if we make concessions. These concessions are always at the expense of our rights and are piled on to Israeli assets without Washington taking any step to help us retain what rights we have left. If this intransigence does not yield through concessions, it might change through intransigence on our part. If this does not achieve anything, then at least we will preserve the rights we have.

Therefore, we cannot confront the U.S. stand with mere feelings of regret, while indirectly acting according to U.S.-Israeli wishes.

We hold the reply in our hands. Abu Iyad's [Saiah Khalaf] call to withdraw all Arab ambassadors from Washington if Shultz remains in power is very logical. The call of 15 Egyptian members of Parliament to prevent Shultz from visiting any Arab country is also logical.

What is required is that the present and coming U.S. Administration understand that it has to pay the price for every stand it takes that is aggressive toward the Arabs. Then it will consider its decisions a thousand times before taking such a stand.

Let us bolt the door of concessions. They are what have encouraged our enemies against us and doubled their designs on our rights. Let us withdraw these concessions from the negotiations market. Their season has not come yet.

It is wiser to keep our cards in our hands until our voice acquires an arm to struggle with. This is possible. The roar of the uprising is what has called for U.S. moves toward a settlement. The continuation and intensification of this roar is what makes settlement more of an answer to our rights.

Justice cannot be achieved without force. And the force of the uprising cannot be discounted.

Saudi Arabia

King Receives USSR Deputy Foreign Minister
LD0512224288 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2110 GMT
5 Dec 88

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Dec (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, received Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet deputy foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation this evening at Al-Yamamah palace.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Turki al-Faysal; his excellency the minister of finance and national economy, Muhammad Aba al-Khayl; his excellency the acting minister of petroleum and mineral resources, and planning minister, Hisham Nazir; his excellency the minister of industry and electricity, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zamil; his excellency the minister of information, 'Ali al-Shai'r; and his excellency the deputy undersecretary for political affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 'Abd al-Rahman Mansuri.

A polite conversation took place during the meeting. Yuliy Vorontsov confirmed to His Majesty King Fahd what Mikhail Gorbachev, Soviet president, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet presidium, and secretary general of the CPSU had said about the resolve of the Soviet Union to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan by the agreed time, and probably earlier.

Yuliy Vorontsov, the first deputy Soviet foreign minister and Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan and his accompanying delegation arrived in Riyadh earlier today, accompanied by Prince Turki al-Faysal, and was welcomed on arrival at King Khalid International Airport by a representative of the royal protocol.

The Afghan mujahidin delegation made the following statement:

God Almighty has said:

But if the enemy incline toward peace, do thou also incline toward peace and trust in God, for He is the one that heareth and knoweth all things. Should they intend to deceive thee, verily God sufficeth thee: He it is that hath strengthened thee with his aid and with the company of the believers. [Koranic verse]

The Afghan mujahidin delegation, headed by Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani, chairman of the Islamic Union of Afghan Mujahidin, met with the delegation representing the Soviet Union, led by Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy USSR foreign minister, to discuss the Afghanistan issue in the town of Al-Ta'if, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Afghan delegation entered the negotiations hall concerned with the following bases and principles:

I. Real and genuine peace is the demand of the Afghan people. These people have been known throughout their history as a peaceful nation, but if their honor is violated by injustice or wrong, then they become a volcano of wrath and incessant struggle until injustices are resolved.
II. Genuine peace has firm foundations. They are:

A. Afghanistan has been and will remain a free independent Islamic state, and its destiny is only in the hands of its people.

B. The withdrawal of the Russians [as received] is an issue which is not subject to procrastination and maneuvering.

C. After withdrawal, authority will be with the Afghan people, who are represented by their mujahidin vanguard, that is, the Afghan mujahidin.

The Afghan delegation adhered to these bases and principles during the talks, and in light of these bases, preliminary discussions took place on the following subjects:

1. Soviet withdrawal and the handing over of power to the Afghan people, represented by its mujahidin vanguard.

2. Compensation for Afghanistan for the losses sustained as a result of occupation.

3. Afghanistan's neutrality, noninterference in the domestic affairs of the two countries, and respect for goodneighborliness. The delegation sensed from the Soviet side its wish to open a new page with the Afghan people, different from what is known of it in the past, although it is hoped that preparations for this will become clearer and that attitudes will be true. On the basis of these developments and hopes, the two sides agreed to resume talks in Pakistan in the near future.

The Afghan mujahidin convey the highest forms of thanks and gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its wise initiative, headed by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, for welcoming the mujahidin delegation.

The Kingdom has stood beside the Afghan people in the most difficult of its circumstances and hardest of its stages. Today it prepares the political climate so that the jihad can reach its aims of complete liberation and honorable independence, and the choice of the Kingdom by the mujahidin to be a starting point for these talks shows its important weight and deep-rooted diplomatic experience. We pray to God to lead us all to the services of His faith and to upholding His word.

Yuliy Vorontsov made the following statement: As is known, we have come to Al-Ta'if to reach an agreement on the situation in Afghanistan, and to give a new impetus to the settlement process in Afghanistan.

We believe that the meetings and the talks that took place were beneficial and will contribute to ending the war and bringing a state of peace back to Afghanistan. They will also contribute to forming a broad-based Afghan government.

The two sides agreed to continue talks in Pakistan. The date will be decided by mutual agreement.

We would like to point out in particular the role played by the government of Saudi Arabia, headed by the custodian of the two holy mosques, for the building of peace in Afghanistan. We would like to extend our thanks to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its good hospitality and care.

The Afghan delegation, led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, left this evening for Mecca to carry out the rites of the minor pilgrimage, then, to holy Medinah to be honored by greeting the tomb of God's messenger.

God's prayers and peace be upon him and his companions. May God bless them.

Vorontsov Departs 5 Dec

LD0512224188 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2226 GMT
5 Dec 88

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Dec (SPA)—His Excellency Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation left Riyadh this evening.

He was seen off at King Khalid International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Turki al-Faysal and by 'Abd al-Rahman Mansuri, the Foreign Ministry's under secretary for political affairs.

'Circles' Cited on Talks

JN0512182888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1715 GMT 5 Dec 88

['Abdallah al-Shihri dispatch from Riyadh]

[Excerpt] Direct talks between an Afghan mujahidin delegation led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, chairman of the Islamic Alliance of the mujahidin, and a Soviet delegation led by Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister and Soviet ambassador in Kabul, who arrived in Riyadh from Al-Ta'if today, were concluded in Al-Ta'if last night.

The results of the talks were not announced and their details were not known. However, some circles here said the mujahidin delegation, which reiterated its call for the withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan, asked Moscow for war reparations, removal of mines from the fighting areas, and the provision of maps showing the places of mines in the areas liberated by the mujahidin.

The Afghan mujahidin delegation, which refused to recognize the head of the Soviet delegation as his country's ambassador to Afghanistan but as a deputy to the Soviet foreign minister, considered the Soviet consent to negotiate with it directly—without a mediator—a failure of the Geneva agreement. [passage omitted]

Officer Cited on New Missile, Israeli Satellite
*JN0512152288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1410 GMT
5 Dec 88*

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 5 Dec (WAKH)—A high-ranking Iraqi officer announced here today that the Al-Faw 1 missile is Iraq's straightforward reply to the Israeli challenge represented by owning long-range missiles which threaten the Arab nation.

Staff Major General 'Ala' al-Din Husayn Makki Khammas, president of Al-Bakr University for Military Studies, said that Iraq can now destroy Israeli missiles in the air and turn their guile against them.

In a study published by the newspaper, AL-JUMHUURIYAH, here today under the title "The Iraqi Missile and the Zionist Satellite", he pointed out that with these missiles, Iraq will have the ability to launch a satellite. However, Staff Maj Gen Khammas did not offer any more information on plans to launch satellites. [passage omitted]

Staff Maj Gen 'Ala' al-Din Husayn Makki Khammas said in his study that if Israel, by launching the satellite Ofeq-1, has the intention of saying that they own long-range missiles which could hit the Arabs and Iraq, then Iraq has the ability to destroy these missiles in the air.

The Iraqi officer ruled out the need for the Arabs now to launch a satellite which gathers information about Israel in answer to its satellite Ofeq-1 due to, as he clarifies, the small size of the Zionist entity on the one hand, apart from the fact that launching such a missile will not decrease the effect of the Israeli satellite.

He pointed out the possibility that the Arabs might, in the future, find a way to develop a satellite which destroys other satellites to combat the Zionist satellite. He said: Perhaps this will become possible in a while. However, he stressed that dealing with the satellite and preventing it from gathering information or interfering, does not diminish the greater and more influential danger, which is the ability to make destructive weapons reach Arab targets.

He stressed that the Arab answer should concentrate on the possibility of destroying Israeli satellites through an anti-missile missile. He said: Iraq has made such a missile, Al-Faw-1, which succeeded in destroying short and medium-range surface-to-surface missiles in the air and at various altitudes.

Saddam Husayn Receives Thank-You Cable From 'Awn
*JN0412143588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT
4 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a thank-you cable from Lebanese Prime Minister Michel 'Awn in reply to a cable he had sent to congratulate 'Awn on Lebanon's national day.

The cable says: I would like to express my deep thanks to you for congratulating me on Lebanon's national day, and in my name and on behalf of the Lebanese people, I wish you continued good health and the fraternal Iraqi people and their wise leadership every dignity and prosperity.

Jordanian Crown Prince, Prime Minister Arrive
*JN0612110888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT
6 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, accompanied by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, arrived in Baghdad today on a short visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal said that he is carrying a message from His Majesty King Husayn to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the march of bilateral cooperation in all of its dimensions and on all levels. He added that he looks forward to meeting His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to convey to the Iraqi leader and his people the affection of both the Jordanian people and His Majesty King Husayn and to discuss with him all issues that would enhance the march of Arab action at this phase.

Crown Prince Hasan voiced his pleasure over visiting Iraq and said: I am personally very pleased for being in my country and among my brethren for a second time.

Crown Prince Hasan was welcomed at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, a number of RCC members, cabinet ministers, and the Jordanian Embassy staff in Baghdad.

Hasan Meets With President
*JN0612120088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT
6 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Crown Prince Hasan of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

His highness conveyed to President Saddam Husayn an oral message from his brother His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The message deals with the strong brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries, Arab situations, and common Arab action.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and minister of state for foreign affairs; the president's secretary; and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Hasan Departs 6 Dec

*JN0612150888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT
6 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—Hasan ibn Talal, the crown prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, left Baghdad this afternoon after a short visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the prince delivered an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan on the strong relations between the two fraternal countries, the Arab situation, and the common Arab action. Crown Prince Hasan was accompanied by Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i.

He was seen off at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; a number of RCC members; the ministers; and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Reportage on Visit of Libya's Al-Kharrubi

Meets With Industry Minister

*LD0512150188 Tripoli JANA in English 1437 GMT
5 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi has met this morning in Baghdad Mr. H. K. Husayn, minister of industry and military industrialization of sisterly Iraq.

Present at this meeting were Mr. Husayn's two deputies and the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau assigned in Baghdad.

At this meeting, the two sides have discussed ways for promoting the brotherly relations among the one Arab people in the two sisterly countries.

This morning Col. al-Kharrubi also laid a wreath on the unknown soldier monument in Baghdad. He was accompanied by a number of Iraqi officials.

Discusses Ties With Jasim

*JN0512195288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1847 GMT
5 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister, met here this evening with Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Revolutionary Command Council in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah, and his accompanying delegation. They discussed media and cultural relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to promote them.

Visits Defense Minister

*JN0512202788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2002 GMT
5 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense, met here this evening with Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Revolution Command Council in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah, and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, which was attended by the Libyan charge d'affaires in Baghdad, they discussed relations between the two fraternal countries.

Makes Statement, Departs

*JN0612105488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1023 GMT
6 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Revolutionary Command Council in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah, and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad this morning following a 3-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA at the airport, the Libyan official expressed his happiness over visiting Iraq and meeting with President Saddam Husayn. He said: I voice my deep appreciation for President Saddam Husayn. He praised Iraq's policy and firm stands on the Arab nation's fundamental causes. He described these stands as clear and well-known. He also praised Iraq's adherence to peace and the need to preserve it.

The Libyan delegation was seen off at the airport by Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and minister of state for foreign affairs; the director of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry; and the Libyan charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Somali Foreign Affairs Official Makes Visit

Arrives, Makes Statement

*JN0412201588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT
4 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—Mohamed Ali Hamud, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived here this evening at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraq lasting several days.

In a statement to INA, the Somali minister said he was carrying a message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre dealing with ways to further promote the growing relations between the two fraternal countries. He was received at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Somali ambassador in Baghdad.

Confers With Tariq 'Aziz

*JN0512125488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1232 GMT
5 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with Mohamed Ali Hamud, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs, and his accompanying delegation. They reviewed bilateral relations, emphasized the common desire to develop these relations in all spheres, and discussed the latest developments in the direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran.

The two ministers also discussed the Arab situation—particularly the Palestine question and the threats Lebanon is being exposed to—and the situation in the Horn of Africa and the external threats Somalia is being exposed to.

Delivers Message to President

*JN0512190488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1814 GMT
5 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre dealing with the fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries and the situation in the Horn of Africa.

The message was delivered by Dr Mohamed Ali Hamud, Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre's personal envoy and minister of state for foreign affairs, when President Saddam Husayn received him here this evening. The message also contains Mohamed Siad Barre's congratulations to President Saddam Husayn on the Iraqi victory over the Iranian aggression and on the achievement of peace.

President Saddam Husayn asked Dr Mohamed Ali Hamud, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs, to convey his greetings to President Mohamed Siad Barre as well as his wishes of national unity, stability, and progress for the fraternal Somali people. The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the president's secretary; and the Somali ambassador in Baghdad.

Trade Minister Leaves for Argentina 29 Nov

*JN2911171588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT
29 Nov 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih left for Buenos Aires today leading an Iraqi economic and trade delegation on a several day visit to Argentina.

The minister told INA that the visit is meant to bolster cooperation between Iraq and Argentina in the economic, trade, and industrial fields, increase the size of

trade exchange, and prepare for the second session of the joint Iraqi-Argentine committee, the date and venue of which will be agreed upon.

Oil Minister Leaves for London To Address Seminar

*JN0412102988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT
4 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim left Baghdad for London at noon today to participate in the international seminar on the future of the oil market.

In a statement to INA, the oil minister said that he will speak during the 2-day seminar sponsored by THE FINANCIAL TIMES on interlinking factors, changes in the international oil market, and expected short-term and long-term developments in light of the experiences of the OPEC member states throughout their march and also in view of the comprehensive agreement recently reached during the OPEC ministerial meetings in Vienna—the agreement that has won the unanimous approval of the OPEC member states.

'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, who will be one of the key speakers during the seminar, will shed light on the positive indicators regarding the growing role of OPEC and its rise following the pressures which it has been subjected to during the eighties. He will talk about the role that Iraq is expected to play in the march of OPEC and in achieving its objectives. He will also discuss enhancing the Iraq's role not only because it is one of OPEC's founding states but also because of the vastness of its oil reserves and its increasing production and exportation capabilities.

A number of world oil experts, specialists, and researchers will participate in this seminar.

Paper Views New 'Scientific Accomplishment'

*JN0312130388 Baghdad INA in English 1235 GMT
3 Nov 88*

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 3, INA—An Iraqi paper has described the successful launching of Al-Faw-1 interceptor missile, specially designed and manufactured by Iraqi hands to intercept in air medium and short-range ground-to-ground missiles, as a unique scientific and technological accomplishment.

AL-QADISIYAH military paper of Iraq said, in an article today, "this experience has placed Iraq at the threshold of the most precise of scientific and technological links and enabled it to venture into domains that developing countries, particularly Arab countries, are not allowed to enter."

The military daily mentioned that the advanced world, under pressures of world imperialism and Zionism, monopolized highly sophisticated technology, its sciences and expertise, particularly those related to protecting national security of peoples.

This new technological achievement would preserve for the Arab nation its security, tranquility and stability and protect it from storms threatening its forward march.

AL-QADISYAH said those men were the ones who manufactured as well Al-Husayn and Al-'Abbas missiles and (who) met requirements of Iraqi armament by depending on self-efforts, thus playing a decisive role in eliminating pillars of Iranian aggression and uprooting it and, subsequently, scoring ring great victory for Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Transfer of UN Debate
JN0412103288 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT
4 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 4, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad described the U.N. General Assembly's decision to transfer its debate on Palestine from New York to Geneva as a big political triumph for the independent Palestinian state.

A daily commentary here today said this triumph came from the endorsement of 154 and less than three weeks from announcing the Palestinian state.

It added that the international unanimity in support of Palestine and against Washington and Tel Aviv indicates strength of right, the uprising and Arab position.

AL-THAWRAH further said that the American refusal to grant Mr. 'Arafat an entry visa was confronted with a large-scale Arab and international condemnation turning the matter into a political battle between the international legitimacy and the American Administration which disavowed its obligations concerning the headquarters of the United Nations.

The daily said that U.S. support to Tel Aviv has become an open backing to an entity which is internationally rejected, and branded as number one enemy to the human and international legitimacy.

Herzog Summons Peres To Discuss Broad Government
TA0512174088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Excerpt] President Hayim Herzog has decided to summon Shim'on Peres for a meeting tomorrow morning as part of his call for the two large parties to work together for the establishment of a government that would bring the country the stability it needs now. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Mr Peres has accepted the invitation.

Earlier it was reported that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir does not intend to heed the president's request to propose yet again to the Alignment to join his government. Meanwhile, contacts with the religious and right-wing parties continue in Shamir's office concerning the establishment of a narrow-based government. [passage omitted]

Peres To Urge Positive Response to Herzog Appeal
TA0612072988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Report by Mikha'el Birenhack on remarks made by Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, "after the meeting with President Herzog" on 6 December; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Begin Peres recording] The president explained to me what he considers an extremely grave situation which demands that all efforts be made to establish a broad-based government. He said that his views represent the increasingly large number of appeals he receives from citizens calling for an end to what many term shameful conduct and for the establishment of a government capable of bearing the present national burdens.

I was very much impressed with the president's remarks. I told him that I will propose that the party's Central Committee be convened this week and will recommend that it respond favorably to the president's appeal. [end recording]

Shim'on Peres voiced his criticism of the many commitments to the ultraorthodox parties. The amendment of the Who Is a Jew Law, says Peres, will splinter the nation. He adds that the electoral system must be changed.

[Begin Peres recording] I think that if the president had empowered me with forming a government, I would have started with the second biggest party—the Likud. I think Mr Shamir, too, should have begun the negotiations with the Alignment, before he approached the small parties and made so many commitments. The past, however, cannot be changed.

I believe the broad-based government must be based on the two major parties, on the parity between them reflected in the election results, and on a confrontation

with the problems I have already mentioned: the political situation, electoral reform, and the prevention of legislation liable to divide the Jewish nation. [end recording]

Shamir Sees Chance for Broad-Based Government
TA0612100488 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
6 Dec 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] "In the short time we have been holding deliberations on the establishment of a broad-based government, the public has been exposed to the essential difference between the Likud and the Alignment in their approach to national problems. The Alignment displayed its lack of national responsibility, and most of its members ignored the call of their national conscience and showed their lack of consideration for the country's situation," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in an interview with MA'ARIV last night.

Nevertheless, the prime minister has not yet ruled out the chances of establishing a broad-based government: "There is no chance whatsoever of setting up a broad-based government as long as the Labor Party does not retract last week's decision. A revocation of that decision may give the efforts we have been making a new chance. I have never made a secret of my view that a broad-based government should be established for the good of the country."

As for the way the negotiations with the Alignment were conducted, Shamir said: "Personal considerations do not influence my decisions. I harbor no hard feelings toward anybody in the Labor Party, and I do not want to go into the question of whether they did or did not try to mislead us. I am only sorry that an opportunity to do something positive was missed. After all, the national unity government did score some accomplishments in its 4 years in power, and nobody can deny that."

Asked about President Herzog's call to set up a broad-based government, Shamir said: "The president of the state should have addressed his call only to the Labor Party and not to the Likud. The president's call was no news to me. I issued that same call loud and clear, but most members of the Labor Party apparently failed to hear it. Now that they have showed their lack of consideration for our country's situation, the president has had to appeal to their conscience. Some people in the Labor Party do not listen to their national conscience and do not feel the responsibility they shoulder by making such a decision."

Shamir stressed that he would be establishing a government shortly: "I do not have to plead constantly with the Labor Party to join a broad-based government. The coalition negotiations with the parties which have voiced their support for the Likud continue.

"I am not anxious about the character of a narrow-based government; no Jew makes me anxious. The worst that can happen is that I will not accept his demands or opinions, but there is no reason to fear. Furthermore, the economic cost being mentioned is exaggerated. The establishment of a coalition obviously entails a price and we are prepared to pay it, but the inflated sums quoted in the media are totally unfounded."

The prime minister concluded his remarks by saying: "Changing the electoral system will not be the universal panacea for all our ailments. There may be another system that would suit the State of Israel better, but it should not be seen as the solution to all our problems. Were the Labor Party ready to form a joint government for the advancement of the country, this could be done even with the current electoral system."

Labor Party To Meet on Broad-Based Government
TA0612114088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The Labor Party Central Committee will meet on Thursday [8 December] to vote on a recommendation from Shim'on Peres to resume negotiations with the Likud on the formation of a broad government. This morning Peres called on President Hayim Herzog at the request of the president, who urged Peres to join a coalition with Prime Minister Shamir. [passage omitted]

National Party Urges Holding New Elections
TA0612073688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0700 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] The National Religious Party is proposing that new elections be held. Party Political Secretary Sha'ul Yahalom has appealed to 'Uzi Bar'am and Moshe Arens, proposing that the election campaign not exceed 1 week. This was reported by our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh.

Shinuy, Tzomet Urge 1-Year Likud-Labor Government
TA0612101988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] The Shinuy and Tzomet movements this morning jointly appealed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Labor leader Shim'on Peres, demanding the establishment of a narrow-based Likud-Alignment government for 1 year. The government's goal would be to reform the electoral system. They said that recent developments have proven that the present electoral system has failed.

HA'ARETZ: Peres-Rabin Rift Reopening
TA0212150488 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
2 Dec 88 p B2

[Commentary by Ilan Shehori: "The Peres-Rabin War is Resumed"]

[Excerpts] Even if the Labor Party eventually sits in a government it will be impossible to alter the mistrust or bridge the wide gap breached in the relationship between

Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin. The events of the recent weeks, primarily the moves surrounding the Labor Bureau voting 2 days ago, have reopened the wounds in the delicate relationship of the two Labor leaders. A narrow-based Likud government and the going into opposition of Labor are bound to finally break the self-imposed wall of silence which prevented Rabin from criticizing the moves of Peres and his aides during the election campaign and last month's coalition talks.

Peres will now make public his contention that Rabin tried to bring about a situation enabling him to retain the Defense Ministry, and in a Shamir government no less. There is no doubt that the resumed rift between the two will precipitate the processes and trends aiming to replace the Labor Party leadership.

In a consultation between Rabin and his aids last Wednesday night, a short while after the party's surprising decision, Peres was the butt of various accusations. It was stated explicitly that he had tried to deceive Rabin, that he had acted behind his back, and had incited the party against Rabin's activities and his personnel who tried to guarantee the Bureau's approval for negotiations with the Likud.

Rabin's advisers charged that although Peres promised Rabin to support the negotiations, he actually instructed all his aids and confidants to act against that possibility. Another accusation was that contrary to his past struggles, in which Peres fought relentlessly for his stands, he preferred this time—except for a few remarks—to stand aside and allow his aids to carry out his real wishes.

Apparently, despite a previous agreement to cooperate, Rabin was excluded from various moves initiated by Peres in the past few weeks. The prevalent feeling in Rabin's camp yesterday was that the resumed contacts with the religious factions and the attempt to bring about a turnabout in Aguda's stands were merely Peres' way to fulfill a personal ambition: a prime ministerial rotation. Rabin's confidants said that they will no longer be able to keep silent in the face of Peres' activities behind Rabin's back in this matter, and his preference of personal considerations over ideological struggles. The backlash is bound to come, even if the price will have to be paid by the Labor Party. [passage omitted]

The trend reached a climax on the eve of the Labor Party Bureau convention. Rabin demanded that the efforts to persuade the Bureau to approve the negotiations be coordinated with Peres. Rabin was the one who maintained secret contacts with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, which resulted in the four-way summit at the beginning of this week and the renewed chances of a unity government. Peres, however, made different moves without Rabin's knowledge. He instructed his personnel to work for a Bureau decision against negotiations with the Likud.

Now that the nature of those moves has become public knowledge, and in view of Peres' contacts with some of the religious parties which are aimed at securing him a prime ministerial rotation, an almost irreparable breach has reopened between the two. Last Wednesday Rabin announced unequivocally in the Labor Party Bureau that he opposes talks with the ultraorthodox parties and the establishment of an Alignment-led narrow-based government. He believes such a government does not have a chance because the Labor Party will never be able to pay the price of agreeing to an amendment of the Who Is a Jew law.

The rift, the differences, and the mistrust are no longer characteristic of the two leaders. They have seeped into the layer of party activists and Knesset members surrounding them. Therefore, many senior party officials estimated this week that a renewed—and open—war between the two is inevitable.

As long as Rabin and Peres marched together they were able to maintain their place in the party's top echelon and downplay any opposition attempts to challenge their leadership. Now that the breach has been resumed, the inner opposition moves scheduled for next year will doubtlessly be moved forward, and the attempt to send the pair home will be precipitated. Without Rabin's assistance, Peres will no longer be able to confront Labor's interim generation which has tried for many years to reveal the cracks in the relation between the two leaders in order to facilitate this generation's road to the top.

Rabin has an ostensibly united camp inside the Labor Party, but it is doubtful whether he can now build his future on Peres' failure. The trend in the Labor's interim strata will be to remove him from their path along with Peres. The expected announcement of a Likud government next Monday will probably launch the overt war in the Labor's upper echelons.

In view of the fact that the Labor Party is due for the opposition, the struggle for the chairmanship of the Alignment faction in the Knesset is bound to start as early as the beginning of next week. Minister Moshe Shahal, who last week agreed to postpone the election for a few days until the overall political picture becomes clearer, will now demand that the elections be held. The present chairman, Knesset Member Rafi Edri, has not despaired yet. To beat Shahal, he will try to obtain public support from Peres. Through the position of faction chairman, Shahal hopes to be able to act as acting opposition leader, thus preparing himself as the next Labor Party leader in the coming 3 to 4 years.

One cannot ignore the strengthening of Knesset Member 'Uzi Bar'am, the party's secretary general, who led the move in the Labor Party Bureau against the opening of negotiations with the Likud. One may say that a Bar'am

camp was established in the party last Wednesday evening: A group of members that will act regularly on his behalf, in preparation for the division of the Peres and Rabin legacy.

Against the background of a determined stance by Rabin, and a more moderate one by Peres, Bar'am developed his move with the clear knowledge that failure might lead to his removal from the important position of party secretary. With a great deal of sophistication he managed to speak to the hearts of the 131 bureau members so that more than half of them finally supported his position against joining a Likud-led government. [passage omitted]

Bar'am's growing strength and Moshe Shahal's expected election as chairman of the opposition Alignment faction will now pave the way for deposing of the leadership of the party. Bar'am and Shahal, political opponents in the not too distant past, have been cooperating for several months already, fully coordinating their actions. Shahal is enjoying Bar'am's support for the position of faction chairman. About 10 days ago Shahal declared that after his election he will ask for the establishment of a permanent forum of the mid-level members of the Labor Party who will coordinate their actions, and try to become a focus of influence alternative to that of Peres and Rabin.

Other personalities seeking the party's leadership, such as Gad Ya'aqobi, Mordekhay Gur, Yisra'el Qeysar, and Ora Namir, may join this forum. Shahal, in the Alignment faction, and Bar'am, in the Labor Party, will neutralize Peres and Rabin from influence over the party's key positions of power until an attempt is made to send the two home, or until this process takes its natural course.

Further on Shevardnadze-Levin Meeting 3 Dec
TA0512155288 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
5 Dec 88 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has asked Israel to propose alternatives to an international peace conference to further the peace process. In a meeting with Arye Levin, head of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow, the Russian statesman asked why Israel should not agree to an international peace conference which would facilitate the achievement of a historic compromise in the region. Shevardnadze added that there is room to discuss new proposals not yet thought of by any of the sides.

During the conversation with the Israeli diplomat, the Soviet foreign minister said he still has fond memories of his meetings with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in which they discussed important and practical matters and noted that he intends to meet with Peres again in the future.

In the course of the discussion, Levin complained of the difficult conditions under which the Israeli delegation has to work and requested that the Soviet authorities permit the consular delegation to move to the deserted building that formerly housed the Israeli Embassy in Moscow. Shevardnadze instructed the officials attending the meeting to deal with the matter promptly.

Yesterday Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres reported to the Cabinet on the Levin-Shevardnadze meeting and estimated that Israel's efficient handling of the hijacked Soviet plane will contribute to warmer relations between Moscow and Jerusalem in the future. [passage omitted]

Members of Moscow Consular Delegation To Change
TA0412061788 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
0500 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Israel will be changing the composition of the consular delegation in Moscow for the third time [as heard]. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the new delegation members, headed by Tzvi Maza'el, director of the Foreign Ministry's East Europe Division, will be leaving for Moscow in a few days.

'Astonishment' at Sweden's Invitation to 'Arafat
TA0512180588 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1700 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem this evening voiced its astonishment at the invitation extended by the Swedish ambassador in Israel to Yasir 'Arafat to visit Stockholm. Alon Li'el, the Foreign Ministry's spokesman, told our political correspondent that if the report turns out to be true and 'Arafat is given an audience with Sweden's leading government officials, it would cause a very damaging impression in Israel. The spokesman added: The fact that the report notes that American Jews would also attend 'Arafat's meetings has done nothing to detract from the astonishment felt in Jerusalem.

Likud Knesset Member Kohen Dies of Heart Attack
TA0612054488 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in English*
0500 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Knesset Member Yig'al Kohen has died of a heart attack. Yig'al Kohen, a member of the Likud, was 62 years old. [passage omitted]

Kleiner To Replace Kohen
TA0612082488 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
0800 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The Knesset session scheduled for today has been canceled due to the funeral of Knesset Member [MK] Yig'al Kohen, who died in Jerusalem last night. [passage omitted]

MK Kohen will be replaced on the Likud Knesset list by Mikha'el Kleiner.

Polish Foreign Minister Comments on Relations
TA0412105788 *Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew* 4 Dec 88 p 5

[Exclusive report by correspondent in France Gid'on Kouts]

[Excerpt] Paris—"Relations between Israel and Poland are good. I meet often with your representative in Warsaw, Mr Paltzur. The Israeli representation has recently been granted an independent status and is no longer tied to the Dutch Embassy. Mr Paltzur is now featured as the official delegate of the State of Israel, and that symbolizes progress in our relations. As for establishing full diplomatic relations—how can we do that when we hear daily of casualties in the territories?" These remarks were made by Polish Foreign Minister Tadeusz Olechowski to DAVAR during the Polish minister's visit to Paris. [passage omitted]

New Ambassador to FRG Presents Credentials
TA0312085388 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1600 GMT 30 Nov

[Excerpt] Binyamin Navon, Israel's new ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, submitted his credentials to President Richard von Weizsaecker. [passage omitted]

Deputy Chief of Staff on United Eastern Front
TA0412203888 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1705 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Due to recent changes in the Middle East, there is a growing potential threat that within a few years an active eastern front for war against Israel might coalesce. These remarks were made today by Major General Ehud Baraq, deputy chief of staff, at a Press Club meeting in Tel Aviv. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe brings us his remarks:

[Begin recording] [Menashe] During last year's events in the territories there were 301 fatalities, 3,640 wounded, 5,500 detainees—including 1,500 administrative detainees—140 demolished houses, and two soldiers and two Jewish civilians were killed. Maj Gen Ehud Baraq, deputy chief of staff, pointed to a decline in the level of violence:

[Baraq] In the struggle against the violence by civilian inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, the security forces have gradually increased their advantage in terms of operational capability, endurance, and organization, even within the limits of the law. Massive demonstrations have been eliminated. Smaller demonstrations that taunted the soldiers, as we often saw on television, have been almost completely eliminated as a result of the introduction of plastic bullets. The soldiers' deterrence was restored. They now patrol the streets of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza with the clear feeling that if one of them raises his gun to the shoulder, the activity in front of him stops immediately.

[Menashe] The deputy chief of staff also said that there is a decline in the number of firebomb incidents: from 20 to 30 a week, down to 10 to 12. What we need now, says Maj Gen Baraq, is patience, flexibility in actions, and self-restraint. All this will bring about a drop in violence. He further stressed that in the background there is always a chance that some extreme elements might resort to firearms. On the propaganda level it will damage them, but our intelligence is ready for it.

The deputy chief of staff added that in the past year several changes took place in the Middle East, including the conclusion of the Iran-Iraq war, the huge weapons procurement of the Arab countries, an increase in terror, and the uprising. It looks like a potentially large threat.

[Baraq] In the long run—even if 2 to 3 years pass before we actually see it, a potential threat exists: the combining of Iraqi, Syrian, and under certain circumstances, even Jordanian and Saudi forces, into a united eastern front. We are a military system whose duty is to find the answers for Israel's security. As far as we are concerned, considering such an extended threat is our working assumption. It is clear that there is no political assurance that it could actually happen. It is possible that along the way, we will all see parts of the Arab world becoming more moderate or distancing themselves from the active confrontationists. [end recording]

W. Bank Extremist Factions Increase Cooperation
TA0512142888 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
5 Dec 88 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The cooperation between the extremist faction within Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the extremist left-wing faction of the "popular front" in the West Bank is growing. Our correspondent has learned that last Saturday the two factions held a joint parade through the Nabulus casbah. The IDF broke up the parade, and nine residents were wounded.

Our correspondent has learned that at the same time, the Fatah supporters and the "popular front" members have been holding contacts with the aim of publishing a joint leaflet by the Unified National Command in order to isolate the extremist factions. The success of this move will be measured in the next few days, when the 30th leaflet of the uprising leadership is issued. Each organization has been publishing its own leaflet recently.

The main bone of contention is that 'Arafat's supporters are insisting on maintaining a 'low profile' and keeping the intifada [uprising] low-keyed, whereas both factions of the "popular front" are demanding an escalation of the intifada.

Goren Interviewed on 'Uprising' in Territories

TA0312101588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1815 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Interview with Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, by Hayim Yavin in the television studio—live]

[Text] [Yavin] Good evening to you. To what extent did the uprising in the territories manage to impair the control of the Israeli administration?

[Goren] One should remember that at the beginning of the uprising, the so-called intifada, one of the problems, or one of the chief goals of the uprising, was to establish civil rebellion, namely, to disconnect the population from the powers of administration. The Civil Administration, which is responsible for this connection, has been damaged to a certain degree, particularly in certain spheres and sectors such as the police force and several taxation elements. Still, the system as a whole is functioning, despite all threats and attacks on its existence.

We should remember that schools in Gaza were open for a very long time earlier on. Yesterday classes resumed after quite a long break. More than 600 schools reopened, and more than 180,000 students returned to classes. If everything goes well we intend to complete this move and reopen the rest of the closed schools. Commercial life has been affected, quite severely, but the bridges [over the Jordan River] are open. There are pseudo strikes and there are commercial strikes....

[Yavin, interrupting] Are there only pseudo strikes or are there indeed prolonged strikes?

[Goren] There are commercial strikes which actually begin at 12 noon. In other words, we have a situation of both business and strike, except for days of complete, pure strike. The bridges, as I said, are open. As for agriculture, it was said that an alternative system was set up, but this is totally incorrect. There are no alternative systems in any sphere. The Civil Administration has been damaged, nevertheless, but it is premature to talk of significant damage here.

[Yavin] You sound satisfied with the situation.

[Goren] Not at all, not at all satisfied....

[Yavin, interrupting] What is the cause of dissatisfaction for you as an Israeli administration member?

[Goren] First, we are not yet satisfied with the level of violence although it has decreased significantly....

[Yavin, interrupting] You mean you are not yet satisfied with the degree of our decreasing this level of violence.

[Goren] Yes. This is not enough. The current trend is positive, and we very much hope—there is a good chance, too—that this trend will continue. We have certain problems in the Civil Administration sphere, specifically with regard to the municipal system, the police force, and the courts which have been harmed. I have no reason to be pleased, but compared to what was expected, compared to their original intention in this sphere, the achievements of the intifada are very limited.

[Yavin] Forgive me for asking you to do this, but if you stood in the shoes of the public leaders in the territories for a moment, what would they view as a major achievement?

[Goren] First, the intifada and the situation in the territories has been placed in the international arena. One should also mention the PNC session and the declarations which were made. They surely have achievements here. Their problem today is how to translate these achievements into daily life. We are discussing a population of 1.5 million residents which is subject to very strong pressures, and our main problem as a Civil Administration is how to keep the various systems going. As I said before, the Civil Administration has been affected to a certain degree, but the infrastructure and the body itself are continuing to function.

[Yavin] The relative quiet, the relative decline in the level of hostile activity, stems from the fact that the IDF has introduced large forces into the territories lately. Does this mean that we, in fact, rule only in places with a massive Army presence? Is the Army an absolutely necessary condition for achieving the kind of relative quiet which has prevailed over the last month or two?

[Goren] The relative quiet is a result of several factors, and not only that of the massive Army presence which is, naturally, one of the important factors. One should recall that we are active in three main directions. We act, first, through massive Army presence. Second, we resort to curfews, to actions which include curfews, blockades, and the like as necessary, adopting such actions only when we receive information that something warranting them is going to take place.

Lastly, we act in the civilian sphere, the Civil Administration sphere. In other words, these are the three directions which we are following and which brought about the relative quiet, repeat, relative quiet. The IDF will remain in the area as long as necessary.

[Yavin] Finally, I would like to ask you this one last question: A year has elapsed since the beginning of the uprising, and we always take advantage of such occasions to sum matters up. Please try, as succinctly as possible, to draw a scenario of what may be in store for us next year.

[Goren] We have already seen that predictions in the Middle East can hardly be made, even for the past. I would not like to engage in predictions. This is very difficult, and I am surely not prepared to do so. Our

problem and task is, first, to reduce the level of violence to a minimum. I do not know whether it could be eliminated, but definitely decreased. As I said before, we are not yet pleased with the current situation. Second, we should continue to strengthen the Civil Administration, improve its operation rather than leave it in its current condition. Our chances of doing this are good. We should not let those elements who want to cause damage carry out their plans. These are our two tasks.

[Yavin] Is there a chance that the status quo ante, the situation prior to the beginning of the intifada, will ever be restored?

[Goren] People seem to think that quiet, an idyll, prevailed before the intifada, but problems existed then too. There is no doubt that the population in the territories has gone through several changes by now, and our problem is, naturally, how to succeed in the two points I mentioned earlier.

[Yavin] Mr Goren, thank you for coming to our studio.

[Goren] Thank you.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

1 Killed, 5 Wounded in Gaza

*TA0512181888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 5 Dec 88*

[Text] A 15-year-old girl was killed today during riots in Gaza. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that her body was taken to a hospital in town. The IDF spokesman said the matter is being investigated. Arab sources also report on five people injured in riots in the Gaza Strip.

Curfews on Gaza Camps

*TA0612075688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0700 GMT 6 Dec 88*

[Text] A curfew was imposed this morning on the Jabalyah and Al-Nusayrat refugee camps and on the Gaza Strip neighborhood of Shabura in Rafah. The curfew on the Al-Shati' refugee camp remains in force, after a 15-year-old resident was killed there yesterday by a plastic bullet fired by an IDF patrol which was dispersing rioters.

The curfews on Qalqilyah and Kafr Malik have been lifted after 2 weeks.

18-Day Curfew on Village

*TA0512195688 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 5 Dec 88*

[Text] Kafr Malik, on the Ramallah-Nabulus road, has been under curfew for 18 consecutive days and has been declared a closed military zone. Our correspondent Shlomo Arad has learned that the electricity to the village has been cut and on several occasions the soldiers

have forbidden the residents to light candles in their homes. The Civil Rights Association has appealed to the IDF for permission to visit there to examine the conditions in the village. Their request has been rejected.

The IDF spokesman's office reported that the issue of the electricity cuts is the responsibility of the Civil Administration. The Civil Administration spokesman said that the matter is in the hands of the IDF.

Tires Confiscated in Jabalyah

TA0512134988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 5 Dec 88 p 10

[Report by Joel Greenberg, Joshua Brilliant, and David Rudge]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] At Jabalyah, thousands of tyres were thrown into the streets after soldiers ordered residents to clear out extra tyres or face a fine of NIS [new Israeli shekels] 1,500 and a jail sentence. Soldiers announced over megaphones that only one spare tyre would be allowed per vehicle in the camp, prompting the teeming camp's 60,000 residents to toss out their tyres, witnesses said.

Troops forced dozens of Palestinian labourers to load the tyres onto local trucks and their drivers were ordered to haul them away.

The IDF spokesman in the Southern Command was unable to comment on the report. [passage omitted]

Police have arrested the owner of a printing works in the old quarter of 'Akko on suspicion of printing material inciting to rebellion. The man, 28-year-old Khalid Ibrahim Zubayk, is suspected of printing hundreds of pamphlets and leaflets in support of the intifada [uprising]. He reportedly admitted the offence to his interrogators. Zubayk was arrested at the end of last week, but the news was only released yesterday.

IDF Releases 'Uprising' Tolls

TA0212122888 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 2 Dec 88 p 10

[Text] The following table lists the number of casualties in the territories since the beginning of the intifada [uprising] as released by the IDF spokesman:

Total Dead:

- Arab residents of the territories: 242
- Israeli civilians: 6
- IDF soldiers: 2

Palestinian sources claim that the number of local residents killed stands at 365.

Total Wounded:

- Arab residents of the territories: 3,567
- Israeli civilians: 402

- IDF soldiers: 729

There are 5,521 detainees, which includes 372 sentenced to various terms in prison, 1,450 administrative detainees, and others waiting for trial.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 2 December on page three in an ITIM report on the uprising statistics adds: "in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip 138 houses have been demolished, 32 residents have been deported, 27 more deportation orders are pending, and 1,322 firebombs have been thrown."]

Jordan Resuming Some Predisengagement Functions

TA0212170688 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
1 Dec 88 pp 1, 11

[Excerpts] Amman—An agreement has been reached between the religious courts department in Amman headed by Shaykh Muhammad Muhaylan and the head of Palestinian affairs department in the Jordanian Foreign Ministry that would authorize religious courts in the occupied territories to carry out the previous tasks conducted by responsible agencies in the West Bank before the legal and administrative disengagement. This process concerns the registration of all forms of power of attorney after fees have been paid, as well as stamps for them, in accordance with the regulations prevailing in religious courts.

Shaykh Muhammad Sa'id al-Jamal al-Rifa'i, inspector of the West Bank's religious courts, said that to safeguard the interests of West Bank residents, the chief judge of the religious courts in Amman has ruled that religious courts in the West Bank can draw up powers of attorney in matters such as renting, mortgaging, buying, or selling land in the East Bank; buying, selling, and registering cars in Amman; constructing buildings and obtaining construction permits. [passage omitted]

This means that if any resident wishes to give a power of attorney in these matters, he should go to the religious courts in the West Bank and Jerusalem to register it there. This authorization will be valid in the East Bank or in Arab states and other countries outside the occupied territories.

Qezi'ot Hunger Strikers Send Letter to Gorbachev

TA0512162588 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
5 Dec 88 p 1

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Ori Nir]

[Text] All detainees at Qezi'ot prison in the Negev have been on a hunger strike since last Friday. The representative of the IDF spokesman in the Southern Command confirmed the hunger strike but could not elaborate on the reasons for it. Piecemeal information was received from the administrative detainees' lawyers and from a letter received by the editorial boards of the Palestinian newspapers, which was probably smuggled out of the prison.

Lawyers who had visited Qezi'ot prison last week reported their clients' deep frustration and disappointment about the lack of improvement in the prison conditions despite the recommendations of the High Court of Justice on the matter.

In a letter sent to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the detainees complain of cold, hunger, and harassment by the prison authorities, adding that they are forbidden to have visitors.

The letter specifies a long list of demands, some dealing with the improvement of prison conditions and others touching on the legal aspects of their arrests.

"We wish to inform you that we no longer have any choice other than to call a hunger strike for an indefinite period, until we die or until our legitimate demands are fulfilled," they wrote.

Arab Sector Leaders Oppose Patrol Units

TA0312125188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] The leaders of the Israeli Arab sector want dismantled the special patrol units recently set up by the police to handle centers of disturbances and to carry out special tasks in the Arab villages. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the concern is with units which operated in old 'Akko, Nazareth, the villages of the Triangle, and eastern Galilee after disturbances occurred in these places.

The request by the Arab sector leaders was transmitted to the police affairs minister and was initiated by Knesset members and heads of local councils, among others. They claim that the special units were set up in order to terrorize and provoke the Israeli Arabs. Officials who handle the Arab sector described the request as insolent and unprecedented. The spokesman of the Northern District police said it resulted from lack of knowledge about the nature and duties of these units. He noted that whenever there are complaints about members of these choice units, an appeal can be made to the police and the matters will be checked. According to him, the patrol units are also active in the Jewish sector.

Mitzna' Warns Settlers Against 'Illegal' Actions

TA0212132088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, notified the head of the committee for safe traffic in Judea and Samaria and the head of the settlers' security staff that their activity is illegal and that traffic safety is the responsibility of the IDF.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Mitzna made it clear in a letter he sent to the committees that the sole responsibility for traffic safety in Judea and Samaria lies with the IDF and the security forces. The settlers' activity prevents the IDF from fulfilling its task.

'Unprecedented' Settlement Drive Begins in Qatif

TA0412114588 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
4 Dec 88 p 11

[Report by Natan Zehavi]

[Text] A settlement drive of unprecedented scope has been launched in the Gaza Strip Qatif area. This is despite Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' declarations that he would give up the Gaza Strip in peace negotiations, and despite the uncertainty still surrounding the coalition negotiations and the identity of the future prime minister.

The drive is organized by the Israeli Government through the Industry and Trade, Construction and Housing, Labor and Social Affairs, and Interior Ministries—all held by Likud ministers. The drive was initiated by the Hof 'Azza regional council whose leadership, along with various settlement movements, had planned the operation over the past months. The ministries participating in the project have extended their patronage by the means of various budgets. The have also announced that they will accompany the settlement infrastructure preparations, which are expected to continue many months past the expiration of the "60 days" campaign" period.

The settlement operation represents the first step toward the development and promotion of the Qatif area with some 500 families expected to join during the first stage. The new settlers who enroll during the first 60 days will receive information on the possibilities of settling down in the region. After the period of 60 days their absorption will begin. Local settlements have already begun preparations to receive the new settlers.

In the framework of the project, various bodies, including Hapo'el Hamizrahi moshavim, Amana Movement, Agricultural Center, and the Religious Kibbutzim Movement, intend to establish the new settlements already included in the government settlement plan. Different ministries have prepared plans for a local economy infrastructure, in the framework of which the industry area of urban settlement Neve Deqalim will be expanded to enable industrial construction on the area of 30,000 square meters. In addition to the above, a special emphasis will be made on tourism and agriculture infrastructure.

The drive will be accompanied by a press, radio, and television advertising campaign managed by Modus Media offices. In addition, an information center for potential settlers will be set up and manned by teams of Qatif regional absorption committees.

Ya'aqobi: 'Uprising' Costs 1.5 Billion Shekels

TA0612113088 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV ('ASAQIM supplement)
in Hebrew 6 Dec 88 p 5

[Report by 'Oded Shorer]

[Excerpts] Gad Ya'aqobi, minister of economic planning and communications, estimates that as a result of the incidents in the territories, Israel's economy lost at least 1.5 billion shekels in the year beginning in December 1987—and that is a conservative estimate. [passage omitted]

The economy sustained a loss in gross national product of about 2.5 percent (some \$900 million), says Minister Ya'aqobi. In his opinion, the intifada [uprising] swallowed up almost all economic growth in 1988. The main effects of the intifada are:

- Security and police expenses increased vastly, while only a portion of this increase was reflected in the approved budgets. In Ya'aqobi's opinion, half of the Treasury's request for an additional budget of 700 million shekels stems from the need to cover regular security and police expenditures.
- Economic productivity dropped considerably as a result of a mass call-up of reservists for duty and a decrease in the number of inhabitants of the territories employed in labor-intensive areas such as construction and agriculture which were severely affected last year.
- Israeli exports to the territories and through them to the Arab countries decreased. Exports to the West dropped to some extent as a result of public hostility and the inability of Israeli industries to meet orders due to manpower shortages.
- Incoming tourism dropped by 10 to 15 percent. Minister Ya'aqobi estimates the subsequent loss at \$110 to \$120 million a year.
- Indirect expenditures: national insurance benefits and salaries were paid by employers to reservists, but these were not counterbalanced by any gains in economic productivity. [passage omitted]

'Uprising' Factor in Housing Market Drop

TA0512130888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 5 Dec 88 p 10

[Report by David Rosenberg]

[Excerpts] The number of new homes sold in the third quarter plunged nearly 25 percent from the previous three-month period, the Central Bureau of Statistics said yesterday.

The survey, which is conducted with the Housing Ministry and covers the 24 largest cities, found that only 1,839 units were sold in July-September, down 20.6 percent from a year before.

The supply of new homes also fell, but by a much smaller percentage—4.1 percent from a year ago and 4.6 percent from the April-June quarter to 5,259 units. That left the supply of unsold homes on the market at 3,420, its highest level since the beginning of 1987.

The third-quarter figure marked the first big drop in the number of homes sold on a year-on-year basis since the big slump the building experienced in 1985 and was its lowest level since the start of 1987. [passage omitted]

The data offer further evidence that the intifada [uprising], which has led to widespread absenteeism among building workers, is making itself most strongly felt in the supply and sale of completed homes. For a contractor, completing a home requires more labour than to erect the skeleton, thus the high absenteeism has done more damage to the supply of finished homes. In fact, building completions, in contrast to building starts, have dropped sharply this year.

The sharp drop in the number of new homes sold could be further evidence that the economy is slowing down, if not headed into a full-fledged recession. The third-quarter figure, however, is so far a one-time decline and does not necessarily indicate a trend.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 5 December on page 8 in a report by Avi Temkin adds that "imports of durables fell last month, despite widespread fears of an imminent devaluation of the shekel.

Figures released yesterday by the Treasury showed that 8,288 new cars were imported last month, 5.3 percent less than in October and 13.6 percent less than in November 1987.

Imports of TV sets totalled 12,176, a drop of 10 percent from October, but still 12.5 percent above November 1987. Imports of video cassette recorders showed a large rise last month, totalling 11,302, compared with just 5,113 in October; a rise of 70 percent."

UN Envoy Comments on Palestinian Rights

JN0612084488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] New York—'Abdallah Salah, Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations, has said that Jordan has lived the Palestinian question with all its events and dimensions and has given so much for its sake and that Jordan's aim has always been to lift the historical injustice that befell the Palestinian people.

In a speech yesterday at the UN General Assembly during the discussion of the article on the state of affairs in the Middle East, which the General Assembly began discussing yesterday, 'Abdallah Salah said:

Like all other people in the world, the Palestinian people have the right to practice their inalienable rights on their soil. The United Nations has confirmed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and Israel must admit this and face the reality which it cannot continue to ignore. He pointed out that the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state came to clarify the picture, put Israel face to face with realities of the situation, and determine the course which the peace process in the Middle East must take.

'Abdallah Salah said: Throughout the past year, the Palestinians have confirmed that no matter how long it takes, the Israeli occupation cannot be accepted in any way. With their blessed uprising, they confirmed that their belief in their inalienable rights is firm and that their determination to practice these rights is strong and confident.

UK Defense Official Trefgarne Continues Visit

Sees Staff Field Marshal

JN0512171888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Amman—Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today received in his office at the General Command Lord Trefgarne, British minister of state for defense procurement. They discussed issues of common concern. The meeting was attended by General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of the general staff, his assistant for planning and organization, the British ambassador and military attache in Amman, and the delegation accompanying the guest.

Mr Trefgarne this morning visited the Martyrs Monument, where he was received by the assistant chief of staff for intelligence and the director of moral guidance. He was accompanied by the British ambassador and military attache in Amman and the accompanying delegation.

Meets With Prince Hasan

JN0512185088 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 5 Dec

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, today received Lord Trefgarne, British minister of state for defense procurements, who is currently visiting Jordan. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and how to promote them. The meeting was attended by the British ambassador in Amman and the members of the guest minister's delegation.

Hasan on Readjusting 'to New Realities'

JN0512120088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
5 Dec 88 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, paid a surprise visit to the Ministry of Industry and Trade Saturday evening and met with a committee entrusted with following up the implementation of the government's recent monetary, economic and financial decisions.

In the presence of Prince Hasan, the committee chairman, Muhammad al-Saqqaf reviewed the committee's main task which also includes the effects of the government's decisions on various sectors and dealing with problems and difficulties in the course of implementing the decisions.

Prince Hasan said conditions are now ripe for Jordan to readjust to new realities and adapt to the requirements of the new stage in development, so that the process of construction and production can continue.

"A comprehensive national mobilisation effort should take place since the present stage in Jordan's economic development is not a temporary one," the Crown Prince added.

He said that this stage requires the economic sectors to adapt and adjust to new requirements and new realities, and that the committee ought to undertake a reassessment process every three months in order to determine its achievements and to decide on further measures.

He added: "Priorities should be altered in accordance with the given circumstances, and coordination among various government agencies is essential especially in matters pertaining to major economic projects."

Prince Hasan emphasised that imported commodities should be made to serve the objectives of exports and that Jordan ought to conclude "equitable" trade deals with other countries. He also stressed that the comprehensive development charter proposed by His Majesty King Husayn should serve as a guideline for every enterprise.

"The present stage calls for radical changes in the communications sector so that the information media can be transformed into a tool helping to promote national mobilisation, lending further impetus to production," Prince Hasan pointed out.

In presenting his review of the committee's task, Al-Saqqaf referred to the committee's accomplishments, and said that its members meet twice a week to examine issues referred to it from other government ministries.

Al-Saqqaf announced that the Ministry of Industry and Trade will shortly appoint commercial attaches at Jordan's embassies in Belgium, Japan and the United States to help promote marketing Jordanian national products.

On Solution to Unemployment

JN0612081088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
6 Dec 88 p 3

[Excerpt] Irbid (PETRA, J.T.).—A solution for Jordan's unemployment problem lies in stimulating the national economy in a manner that would enable various economic sectors to absorb all able-bodied workers willing to contribute to the construction of their country, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan said here Monday.

Under the present circumstances, it is imperative on all sectors and private individuals to conduct a speedy revision of the cause of behavioural unemployment and try to address the social attitude so as to pave the way for a real change in the social stand vis-a-vis manual work, the prince said in an address read out on his behalf at the opening of conference on unemployment and the utilisation of economic resources in Jordan by Mr. Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din, president of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

In our age, the prince said, "numerous changes affect economic situations in advanced and developing countries alike. A trend that definitely affects labour markets, creating problems of unemployment. [sentence as published] Jordan is now going through this process of change and is therefore determined to confront and deal with it in a firm and proper manner," Prince Hasan noted.

Referring to the government's recent financial, economic and monetary measures, Prince Hasan said they are bound to deal with problems related to unemployment and aim to encourage the private sector to make more investments.

"Such measures are bound to revitalise the economic sectors, create job opportunities and absorb more workers," Prince Hasan noted.

The government is determined to create an appropriate atmosphere and suitable conditions for people to embark on manual work and production processes. A policy

adopted by other nations and based on the value of manual work, especially in industry and agriculture, Prince Hasan added. [sentence as published]

Prince Hasan referred to non-Jordanian Arab workers who have been employed on manual jobs in the Kingdom, and said that they hold college degrees and school certificates, proving that they acquired culture and education but at the same time appreciate manual work.

We are invited to create a system that respects work, and we are called on to examine the causes of unemployment which mostly stem from individual and social attitude, the regent said.

"As the country is now involved in a comprehensive revision of its educational policies, the Ministry of Higher Education is directing its attention to training at community colleges in a manner that would provide the maximum benefit for the community and the needs of the national development," Prince Hasan pointed out.

At the same time, he said, the Ministry of Labour is reorganising the system of its employment offices to control employment at the private sector's businesses. "The government is intensifying its efforts through contacts with other Arab countries to absorb Jordanian workers in their medical, engineering and educational organisations."

All these measures, he said, are "bound to contain unemployment but a real effort at the national level is indeed required, so that the problem can be dealt with effectively." [passage omitted]

Jerusalem Radio Cites State Minister on Economy
JN0412200088 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
1605 GMT 4 Dec 88

[From the "With the Events" program]

[Text] Jordan is currently passing through a painful stage by moving from a consuming country to a productive country. This was stated by Dr Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordanian minister of state for cabinet affairs in a press interview. More details in the following report:

With the decline of the Jordanian dinar against the U.S. dollar and the drop in its value by 30 percent over the past few months, top Jordanian officials are now preoccupied with the deteriorating economic situation in Jordan. The Jordanian authority adopted firm measures to stop the deterioration in the dinar's rate and reduce the trade balance deficit, which amounted to more than \$170 million over the past year.

Dr Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordanian minister of state for cabinet affairs, told REUTER correspondent in Amman today that the aim of the recent economic measures is to encourage domestic production through banning imports of luxury goods, including vehicles and electrical

appliances, and increasing custom duty on imported commodities to protect domestic products. He added that his country expects a remarkable reduction, whether in its trade balance or budget, over the next year, with this deficit totally ending in 5 years at most.

The Jordanian minister stressed that Jordan's economic and development strategy for the 90's is currently being organized, especially in the field of industry and services. He disclosed that the Jordanian government is currently preparing a draft austerity budget for the next fiscal year, in which the deficit will be reduced by about 50 percent through cutting down spending and decreasing the number of development projects that require investment of large sums of foreign currencies. At the same time, part of the budget that used to be allocated for services will be transferred to new investment projects, especially those designed for exportation.

Dr al-Tarawinah stressed that the government will continue to subsidize essential consumer commodities such as oil, wheat, sugar, and rice in order to curb inflation, knowing that the price of these essential commodities will rise from \$38 million to \$64 million due to the decline in the dinar's rate against the U.S. dollar and the increase in the price of these commodities in the international market.

Economic Delegation To Leave for Moscow

JN0612081688 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
6 Dec 88 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—A Jordanian economic delegation is due to leave for Moscow Tuesday to hold talks on increasing the volume of trade between Jordan and the Soviet Union and to look into means of bolstering bilateral economic cooperation.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Muhammad al-Saqqaf, who leads the delegation, said in a statement that an agreement on guidelines in trade on equitable basis between the two countries will be worked out during the visit.

He said that the two sides will conduct a study on the prospect of launching joint ventures to produce materials used in the manufacture of fertilisers based on phosphate produced in Jordan.

Al-Saqqaf said the projected equitable deal was bound to stimulate the industrial and commercial sectors in both countries, and promote bilateral trade and help adjust the trade balance which is now in favour of the USSR.

The Soviet Union at present sells raw iron, timber, paper, equipment and chemicals to Jordan.

According to Al-Saqqaf, the delegation's visit to Moscow comes in the wake of the formation of a joint Jordanian-Soviet Economic Committee that was set up following His Majesty King Husayn's fruitful visit to the Soviet Union and in the light of a bilateral economic agreement signed in 1969.

SAWT AL-SHA'B on King's Meeting With Thatcher

JN0612085488 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
6 Dec 88 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Husayn's Meeting With Thatcher"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab role in deepening European understanding of the Arab stand on holding an international conference for peace with the objective of reaching a comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on UN Security Council Resolutions No 242 and 338—His Majesty's role benefits from the worldwide response welcoming and supporting the PNC resolutions, which responded to peace requirements demanded by the world's states.

His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with British Prime Minister Thatcher gains a British stand that understands and supports the PLO stands, especially since the British stand constitutes a basic stand within the European stand, which several of its states showed understanding of and supported the PLO and recent PNC resolutions.

Moreover, the British stand, represented by the British prime minister, can form a new stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict that will stand in the face of the U.S. bias toward Israel, especially since the U.S. stand is still mortgaged to the Israeli views and stands against the peace process through its refusal to respond to the new developments in the political stand resulting from the PNC resolutions—resolutions which the United States demanded as a condition to push and participate in the peace process.

In light of this, the role His Majesty King Husayn is playing and which comes in the wake of the U.S. refusal to grant Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United Nations to explain Palestinian views will not only entrench the Europeans' conviction of the Palestinian and Arab stand, but will also show the extent of U.S. bias toward Israel and the role that the world's states should play, particularly EC states, in promoting confidence in the United Nations and enabling it to convey its message, after the United States violated the headquarters agreement and ignored international calls and appeals for a comprehensive peace.

Sooner or later, European interests will conflict with U.S. interests in the Middle East as a result of the U.S. bias, which the Europeans feel separates them from any joint view with the United States.

AL-DUSTUR on King Husayn's Cairo Talks
JN0112081388 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
1 Dec 88 p 1, 15

[Editorial: "Husayn-Mubarak Talks"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Cairo and his talks with his brother, President Husni Mubarak, come in the framework of the constant coordination and consultations regarding developments in the Palestine question and all Arab issues. Jordan is eager for these consultations to continue.

The talks between the two great Arab leaders gain special importance in view of the two fraternal countries' concern for consolidating Arab ranks and pan-Arab action to stand up to the challenges and threats to our nation and greater homeland. This is in addition to the firm, distinguished relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples, the foundations of which were strengthened by King Husayn and President Mubarak. These firm relations have become an example for the other brothers to follow.

Thus, the talks between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother, President Husni Mubarak, gain particular significance, with the fruits and good results of these talks reflecting positively on bilateral relations and higher Arab interests, to which King Husayn has dedicated himself and his time. This is especially so since the two leaders' talks dealt with developments in the Palestine question and an evaluation of international reactions to the PNC resolutions. The two leaders also discussed consultations about and coordination of future moves to support the Palestine question and present it to world public opinion as well as Arab coordination to support the PNC resolutions.

The discussion of all these topics is demanded by the current stage, which is expected to witness intensive moves and activities on the regional and international levels. The Israeli enemy will maliciously try to use these moves to black out the PNC resolutions and obscure the PLO position, which is in line with international legitimacy and meets the conditions for holding an international peace conference in the Middle East.

King Husayn's efforts and his persistent endeavor to achieve a unified Arab stand—especially at this time—to face the regional and international developments and interactions of the Palestine question reflect his extreme eagerness to push the Palestine question to a pre-eminent position among international concerns and set before world public opinion its responsibility to intensify its support for the march of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region, especially since the

international climate has become more capable of comprehending the circumstances of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the need for peace, and the encouragement of its march within the framework of international legitimacy.

TIMES Terms Visa Decision 'Seriously Flawed'
JN0112072688 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
1-2 Dec 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Abuse of Privilege"]

[Text] Other than being illegal and politically short-sighted, the Shultz decision to deny Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to address the United Nations General Assembly is seriously flawed by the use of the venue of the United Nations headquarters in New York as an instrument for conducting U.S. foreign policies. As a sovereign nation Washington has available to it all sorts of policy tools to exercise its policy objectives as regrettable as some might be, but the use of the physical presence of the United Nations on its territory should not be one of them.

If this unfortunate trend in U.S. U.N. diplomacy continues, the international community is duty bound to search for remedies to this ludicrous situation. In any case the international organisation cannot and should not be hostage to any member state, big or small.

When it was decided to construct the United Nations building in New York all parties recognised that the benefit ensuing from that decision is mutual to both the host country, the United States, as well as to other U.N. member states. In other words, the U.S. did not do the nations of the world a special favour. If it were not politically and economically beneficial to the United States to house the U.N. it would not have offered to host it in the first place. The U.S. government is therefore called upon to honour its legal and political commitments to the international organisation by keeping it free of all kinds of pressure and intimidation.

The latest case of Chairman 'Arafat is not the first of its kind where the U.S. Government chose to exploit the site of the U.N. as hostage to its whims. The repetition of such behaviour is putting the future of the U.N. at risk. If Mr. Shultz thinks he has a God-given mission to moralise on who may or may not address the U.N. body, the end result would become anything but what was envisaged by the framers of the U.N. Charter.

Not even the U.S. Government envisaged such a role for itself when it participated in the negotiation that led to the establishment of the United Nations. To think otherwise would mean that Washington has a special veto power over and above the veto power that it enjoys in the Security Council. That is not the kind of United Nations that we promoted and joined.

Further on Visit to Beirut by Iran's Besharati

*LD0512161788 Tehran IRNA in English
1605 GMT 5 Dec 88*

[Text] Beirut, Dec. 5, IRNA—The bloody conflict between Muslim militias were discussed in separate meetings between Iran's first deputy foreign minister and Lebanese leaders Monday.

As part of his efforts to prevent further clashes between Amal and Hizballah which has claimed hundreds of casualties, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati had a two-hour discussion with head of the Amal Movement and Justice Minister Nabih Birri.

"God willing, all differences between Amal and Hizballah will be solved soon," he said after the meeting.

Besharati, who arrived here after talks with Syrian leaders in Damascus, told IRNA that he had held "fruitful" talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on ways to solve Amal-Hizballah differences.

Amal's relations with Iran is "historical", and would be further strengthened in the future, he added.

Besharati also held talks Monday with Lebanese Premier Salim al-Huss who was assured of Iran's support as the head of the sole legitimate government in Lebanon.

He promised that the Islamic Republic would provide the Lebanese people with their basic needs.

The Iranian official later met Parliamentary Speaker Husayn al-Husayni.

News Conference in Beirut

*NC0512164988 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Dec 88*

[Text] Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati has disclosed that the Amal Movement and Hizballah have agreed to stop the feverish media campaigns between them as of today. He pointed out that a quadripartite meeting embracing the two sides, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria, will be held in a week's time to discuss the dispute between the movement and Hizballah and to resolve the old, unresolved problems. Besharati praised the ongoing Syrian efforts in coordination with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister held a news conference at the Iranian Embassy today at the end of his visits to a number of leaders and officials, including Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri, Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, and Hizballah leaders. During the news conference, Besharati emphasized Iran's desire to preserve its ties with the Amal Movement and Hizballah. He noted that the dispute

between the two sides is bitter, difficult, and intolerable. He added: We harbor feelings of friendship toward Nabih Birri and we have no problems with anyone.

Asked if his visit is to circumvent the visit of Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din to Tehran, Besharati said: Shaykh Shams al-Din arrived in Tehran and I was there to receive him. His eminence will present his viewpoints to the Iranian officials. I have come to the area with an important message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. I have also come to meet with the brothers in Lebanon. I will meet again with Shaykh Shams al-Din in Tehran. Besharati affirmed that his visit to the area was preplanned.

To another question, Besharati said: We have tried, and will continue to try, to ensure direct contacts with the brothers in the Amal Movement and Hizballah to get a clear view of the situation. He denied that he has brought any specific plans for a solution. He declared that he has accomplished great success in his endeavors, which is illustrated in the established cease-fire between the two sides.

Besharati reiterated his country's readiness to lift the food blockade imposed on the nationalist and Islamic areas. He said that the Islamic Republic is quite prepared to give anything, including oil derivatives, food, and other needs. He holds the view that the Lebanese problems are transient and Lebanon will remain independent and solid.

On the relations between Syria and the Islamic Republic, Besharati said that they are extremely good. He added that he had conveyed an important message to President al-Asad from the Iranian leadership. He pointed out that Iran's relations have improved with its neighbors following the cease-fire in the Gulf, particularly with Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, and Oman. He added that Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia will soon develop.

It has been learned that Besharati left for Al-Biq'a' this evening enroute to Damascus.

Amal Responds to Besharati

*NC0512182288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 5 Dec 88*

[Text] Responding to the news conference held in Beirut today by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati, an official source in the Amal Movement has stated the following:

The Amal Movement, which has always been in a position of self-defense on firm instructions from its leadership, has abided by and will continue to abide by the cease-fire agreement and will implement the contents of the Syrian-brokered security plan in West Beirut and the southern suburb. The Amal Movement will also abide by the halt in the media campaigns to curb the sedition and prevent it from expanding. However, the

movement emphasizes its firm stand on the following: Any talks with Hizballah must be contingent on handing over the killers of Brothers Dawud Dawud, Mahmud Faqih, and Hasan Sbayti.

Amal-Hizballah Talks Previewed

NC0612071688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] In an interview with AL-ANWAR newspaper, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati disclosed that official invitations have been conveyed to Amal and Hizballah officials to visit Tehran for the purpose of holding talks with Iranian officials in an attempt to eliminate all differences between the two sides. He noted that the Amal and Hizballah officials with whom he had met had expressed their concern over the conflict and the fighting which had taken place between the two sides. These same official also had acknowledged that both sides have outstanding problems, which a quadripartite committee, convened under Syrian and Iranian auspices, will discuss at its meeting scheduled for next week.

Besharati pointed out that he will brief Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, who is currently in Tehran, on the outcome of his talks. Besharati added that he will consult with Shams al-Din over what steps must be taken to curb the situation.

We should recall here that the Iranian official left West Beirut last night on his way to Tehran via Damascus after meeting with leaders and personalities, including former Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, former Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri.

In the meantime, kidnapping operations between Hizballah and Amal resumed yesterday afternoon, when four Amal Movement members—Fadi Barakat, 'Ali Sha'ban, 'Ali Mizra'ani, and Ibrahim Khalaf—were abducted near the Ibrahim bakery in Al-Ghubayrah.

'Awn Cancels Decisions by Former Ministers

NC0512140088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] In his capacity as minister of interior, foreign affairs, education, and information, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has issued decrees cancelling all decisions and all letters of authorization issued by the ministers who formerly held these portfolios to high-ranking officials of these ministries.

These decrees go into effect immediately.

'Source' Close to 'Awn Reacts to Al-Huss Stand

NC0512172588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Excerpt] In reaction to the recent stands of former Prime Minister al-Huss, a source close to Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn stated the following: it seems that the falsification of facts, the adoption of others' stands, and the abandonment of logic have become the mottos of those who are bent on deepening the division and sabotaging beneficial initiatives.

It is regrettable that Dr al-Huss has sunk into this category and brought down with him the traits for which he has long been known; namely, his common sense, his abhorrence of cheap propaganda, and his rejection of anything not in line with his personal convictions.

No one believes that the well-known financier and economist [Dr al-Huss] now considers money to be a matter unrelated to the citizens' livelihood. He has blessed withholding the payment of funds to a section of the people, while at the same time he is angry because they cannot get gas and flour. How can the citizens get bread or gas cylinders if they do not have money?

When Al-Huss says that the loaf of bread and the need to provide it for the citizens is above any other consideration, he is merely repeating a well-known statement by Gen 'Awn, who declared that any trampling on the livelihood of the citizens in any area will be considered a war crime and will be prevented by all means.

Hence, the closure of the museum crossing has come in answer to those who have started this war by withholding the payment of funds to the eastern area. As you sow, so shall you reap. [passage omitted]

'Enormous' Car Bomb Explosion in Al-Biq'a'

NC0512123688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1226 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] According to a security report received from Al-Biq'a' a short time ago, an explosion reverberated in the area of Ta'nayil on the Shtawrah-Al-Masna' road, opposite the ceramics factory, at approximately 1250 today. The explosion, which appears to have been enormous, was caused by a booby-trapped car. The number of casualties has not yet been determined.

Car Bomb Explodes in West Beirut 5 Dec

NC0512142788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] An explosive device planted in a Peugeot 504 parked near the Baydun Hospital in the Al-Sana'i area [in West Beirut] went off at 1420 today. According to security reports, seven people were slightly wounded and were taken to the American University Hospital.

[Paris AFP in English in its Beirut-dated report on the car bomb at 1350 gmt on 5 December adds, "a car exploded Monday as it was rolling toward the West Beirut headquarters of the Syrian-backed government here, injuring five people, hospital sources said.

A second car-bomb explosion was reported on a highway in eastern Lebanon used regularly by Syrian military convoys. There were no victims, correspondents said.

The blast here, which damaged three other cars and shattered windows, occurred 50 meters (yards) from the building housing the administration of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, correspondents reported.

The area is also under Syrian army control.

Witnesses said the driver of the car, a Peugeot 504, stepped out of the vehicle, leaving it in neutral and allowing it roll toward the gate of the government building.

Mr. Al-Huss was in Damascus when the explosion occurred, correspondents at the scene said."

Syrian Observers Withdraw From Sidon

NC0512155788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] According to a security source, the Syrian observers in Sidon, stationed there since 1985, withdrew from the city last night. The source explained that the Syrian observers retreated to the village of Al-Rumaylah, the southernmost position for the Syrian Army on the Beirut-Sidon coastal road.

A Palestinian source said the Syrian observers withdrew for fear of Israeli military operations in the area, while security sources in the city said this step came after Palestinians belonging to the PNSF had strengthened their positions in 'Abrah and Majdalyun, a development which might cause a military showdown between pro-'Arafat and anti-'Arafat forces.

1 Killed, 10 Injured in Beirut Explosions

NC0512181088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The Government House [in West Beirut] escaped destruction by a car bomb at noon today. The car was rolled toward the entrance of the building, but it collided with another car which was parked on the road. The rigged car exploded, killing one person and wounding seven others. [passage omitted]

A strong explosion also occurred in Al-Biq'a today. According to reports from the area, 40 kg of TNT which had been planted in a Mercedes 280 parked on the Shtawrah-Al-Masna' main road opposite the 'Abduh plantations were detonated and caused the explosion. According to security sources, the explosion was targeted against Palestinian positions. One Palestinian and two Lebanese nationals were wounded in the blast. [passage omitted]

Israelis Release 3 Lebanese Arrested on Boat

NC0612074588 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] The Zionist occupation forces released Salah Salim Khalifah, his brother 'Abd al-Karim Salim Khalifah, and their cousin Hasan Husayn Khalifah yesterday. These forces had detained the three men while they were on their pleasure boat on their way to Tyre from Al-Sarafand and had taken them to the occupied territories 2 days ago.

Reportage on Visit of Afghanistan's Kawiani

Sees Vice President

JN0312141188 *Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic*
1215 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] At 1000 today, Vice President Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah received Najmuddin Kawiani, Politbureau member of the Democratic Party of Afghanistan and chairman of the Grand National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee. Abdul Jalil Parshur, Afghan ambassador in Damascus, attended. The meeting dealt with ties between Syria and Afghanistan and ways to bolster them.

Kawiani has expressed the high praise of Afghanistan for achievements accomplished by Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in all fields and for the important role it plays in Arab steadfastness against imperialism and Zionism and their plots.

Visits Ba'th Party Official

JN0412135888 *Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic*
1215 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Comrade Dr Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received Comrade Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the Politburo of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, and his accompanying delegation. Afghan Ambassador to Damascus Abdul Jalil Parshur attended the meeting. They reviewed aspects of relations between the two parties and peoples and ways to promote them.

Comrade Qaddah explained to the guest delegation the economic and social changes that took place in our country after the glorious Corrective Movement. He also explained recent developments in both Arab and international arenas and Syria's role under the Ba'th Party and its secretary general, struggler Hafiz al-Asad, in the face of imperialist and Zionist challenges. The member of the PDPA Politburo praised the wise and principled policy of our country and expressed deep admiration for our party's great struggle and the achievements of our people in building a progressive, socialist society.

Delivers Message to Al-Asad

JN0412200688 *Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic*
1915 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] At 2000 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the Politburo and secretary of foreign relations in the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. Comrade Ahmad Dirgham, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and head of the Syrian-Afghan friendship society, attended the meeting.

Kawiani handed the president a written message from Afghan President Muhammad Najibullah, secretary general of the PDPA. He also conveyed to his excellency greetings of the Afghan party and state command. The president asked him to convey similar greetings to the Afghan command and people. Talks dealt with the situation in Afghanistan and the efforts to find a peaceful solution according to the Geneva agreement and peace initiatives.

Signs Pact With Ba'th Party

JN0512172388 *Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic*
1615 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] A cooperation pact was signed today at the National Command Headquarters of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] between the ASBP and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan for 1989 and 1990. Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, ASBP National Command member and Comrade Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the Politbureau and secretary of foreign relations in the PDPA signed for Syria and Afghanistan respectively. After the signing ceremony, the sides exchanged friendly speeches on party and state relations.

Comrade Kawiani said at a press conference he held in Damascus today that Syria has played an honorable role in promoting peace and people's national independence. He hailed ties between the ASBP and the PDPA.

Al-Asad Cables Pakistan's Bhutto on Post

JN0312071888 *Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic*
0515 GMT 3 Dec 88

["Text" of cable from President Hafiz al-Asad to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto—date not given]

[Text] I am very pleased to send you my sincerest congratulations on your nomination to form a Pakistani government following the great success achieved by the Pakistani People's Party under your leadership in the parliamentary elections.

The election results are a clear expression of the Pakistani people's confidence in the line drawn by the founder of the People's Party, your late father, Zulfikar 'Ali Bhutto. These results also emphasize that Benazir Bhutto embodies the aspirations of the Pakistani people. While expressing my best wishes of success and continued health and happiness, I wish for the friendly Pakistani people continued progress on the path opened by your late father, with whom I was bound by an intimate friendship of which I am proud. We will never forget your late father's brave stands and great efforts in defending the issues of the Arabs and Muslims.

I take this opportunity to stress my conviction that relations of close friendship and sincere cooperation between Syria and Pakistan will be consolidated through our joint efforts. Once again, I wish you success and the Pakistani people further prosperity.

Afghanistan

Message Sent on Anniversary of Ties With USSR LD0612093788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 5, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, RA, and general secretary of the PDPA CC and Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister, have sent a congratulatory message to Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU CC and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet as well as to Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of Afghan-Soviet friendship, good neighbourliness and cooperation treaty.

The treaty dated December 5, 1978 constitutes a strong legal basis for all-sided and effective politico-economic cooperation of the both countries. The people of Afghanistan, points out the message, are grateful for the assistance rendered to Afghanistan in different economic, political, military and cultural spheres.

Such assistance is of special significance at the present stage of the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation as well as for the implementation of Geneva Accords.

Afghanistan is fateful to the principles of peaceful coexistence and non-alignment and is an advocate of expanding relations with all countries, notes the message.

The leadership of the RA has expressed confidence in the message that the traditional friendship and all-sided cooperation among the states and the peoples of our countries shall be strengthened day by day in the benefit of the people of the both countries as well as for the cause of securing peace in the region and the world at large.

A message by Mikhail Gorbachev and Nikolay Ryzhkov to the Afghan leadership has also been received here on the same occasion.

Wakil Letter Stresses UN Role in Peace LD0512062988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 4, BAKHTAR—The Republic of Afghanistan (RA) as a member of the UN Organisation has always expressed its loyalty to the aims and principles of that organization, we attach great importance to the mission assigned to UN by independent countries.

It has been stated in the letter of 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the RA, regarding to the official demand of the RA for convening an international conference on the fixation of neutrality and demilitarization of Afghanistan addressed to Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general. The letter has been published as an official document of that organization.

Present day international situation requires collective and effective measures for removing the existing threat to world peace and seeking ways for solving peacefully regional as well as world conflicts.

The letter says the Republic of Afghanistan with the realization of its sense of responsibility towards peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region and with keeping in view Afghanistan's geo-strategic and geopolitic characteristics including the urgent demand for the rehabilitation of the economy of our country damaged seriously during the war, proposes that an international conference on the neutrality and demilitarization of Afghanistan be held under the UN auspices.

We are convinced, the letter adds, that reaching an agreement on Afghanistan's neutrality and demilitarization would play an historic role in the preservation of peace and stability in Afghanistan and as a whole in South East Asia and Afghanistan like Swiss [as received] and Austria in Europe can become as a centre of stability in this part of Asia.

Afghanistan believes that this conference can be held with the participation of Afghanistan—all its neighbouring countries, all parts of Afghan society involved in war including international guarantors of the Geneva Accords—USSR and USA. In this connection setting up of a broad based coalition government is a step of vital importance, the letter stressed.

At the same time, we also believe that, following the determination of neutrality and demilitarization of Afghanistan, at the second phase, a vast international conference be held with the participation of states, governmental and non-governmental organizations, international economic, monetary and financial institutions in order to assess the seeking of ways and methods for rendering economic assistance and rehabilitation of war-stricken economy of Afghanistan.

The letter concluded that the government and peace-loving people of Afghanistan while once again consider role and strivings of your excellency, in ensurance of peace in the country is convinced that your share in convening such an international conference on Afghanistan neutrality and demilitarization under the UN supervision, assess as another big step for the ensurance of peace in our country.

Protest Notes Submitted to UN Mission

Note No 136

LD0312071688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0418 GMT 3 DEC 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 2, BAKHTAR—The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan renders its all-sided efforts for the resettlement of refugees and restructuring of the

war-torn Afghanistan and on the basis of previous agreements reached with a UN concerned organ that anticipated human and economic assistance be rendered to all provinces of the country.

But, recently when a convoy of cargo loaded with chemical fertilisers, sowing seeds and medicines, prepared by the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Kabul and UNICEF, and was destined for Panjshir, on its way from Kabul the caravan alongside with the UN officer vehicles was attacked by Gulbuddin armed extremists group in Seyyed Bashi [place name as received] area of Charikar, Parwan Province. [sentence as received] The consignment was plundered and the head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees was taken as captive.

During the captivity of him, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan tried hard to save his life, as a result the head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees was released on Nov. 30, and returned to Kabul after four days in captivity.

This event is an undeniable fact of open violation by Pakistan of Geneva Accords, resolutions of the 43rd sessions of the UN General Assembly and the spirit of the conference held on October 12, 1988 by the countries finance UN human and economic extraordinary programme on resettlement of refugees and rehabilitation of the damaged economy of Afghanistan emanated from an imposed war. [as received] This act of extremists threaten this programme.

While severely condemning this plunderous act of the extremists and their supporter, we express great concern over the repetition of such acts. As far as the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, it spares no efforts in the implementation of this programme.

In this convection, the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, Abdul Wakil, has sent telegrammes addressed to UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, Sadruddin Aga Khan, organiser of UN humanistic and economic assistance to Afghanistan and to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Wakil in his messages drew the attention of the UN authorities for the implementation of the UN programme and demanded that the Government of Pakistan which supports Afghan armed extremists should sincerely observe its obligations towards the Geneva Accords and resolutions of the 43rd sessions of the UN General Assembly.

Also, in relation to this sad accident, the 136th note of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan was handed over to the UN Good Offices Mission in Kabul (UNGOMAP) on Thursday.

It asks UNGOMAP to assess the violations and inform the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general on its results.

Note No 137

*LD0312190588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 3 Dec 88*

[Text] A Foreign Ministry source reports that this evening note No 137 of the Republic of Afghanistan on Pakistan's flagrant violation of Article 2, Document No 1, of the Geneva accords was handed over to the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] by the Foreign Ministry's coordination office.

The note gives accurate information on the type of violation, and it mentions the date and location as well as the damage caused by it. In accordance with Article 7, Document No 4 of the Geneva Accords, the delegation has been asked to investigate the violations mentioned in this note and to present the results of its investigation to the Republic of Afghanistan and the UN secretary general's representative.

Note No 138

*LD0412180888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 4 Dec 88*

[Text] A Foreign Ministry source reports that this evening Afghanistan handed to the Kabul office of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan its 138th note, concerning 13 Pakistani violations of Article 2, Instrument I of the Geneva Agreements.

The note contains comprehensive information about the dates, places, and circumstances of the violations as well as the amount of damage caused. The mission is asked to consider the violations and report its findings to Afghanistan and the UN secretary general's representative.

Note No 139

*LD0612094488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0448 GMT 6 Dec 88*

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 5, BAKHTAR—139th notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on the gross violations by Pakistan of the provisions of Geneva Accords was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, UNGOMAP, here today.

The notice stipulates 14 items of the violations made by Pakistan of the provisions of Geneva Accords including the despatch of assorted weapons from the territory of Pakistan to extremist groups. The notice also specified the location and date of each violation.

The notice asks the UNGOMAP to assess the violations of Pakistan as soon as possible and to inform the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of UN secretary general of the findings as soon as possible.

Government Affirms Highways to Kabul Open
LD0512060488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0436 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 4, BAKHTAR—Hundreds of trucks and lorries loaded with primary goods are moving on Kabul-Jalalabad, and Kabul-Jeyretan highways every day. These highways are open to traffic and the security is maintained there.

According to a report of BAKHTAR, hundreds of private and public vehicles full of consumer goods such as wheat, edible oils, sugar and fuels arrived in Kabul from Jalalabad and Hairatan ports.

Similarly, such caravans loaded with essential materials are being sent to different parts of the country.

Military Moves Against Rebels in Various Areas
LD0512182988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Quoting responsible sources in the Armed Forces, BAKHTAR reports that crushing blows were struck against extremist staging areas in the Sorkh Rud District and the Nader Shah Kowt, (Karez-e Kabir), and (Saracha) regions in Nangarhar Province, and Zarmal District, [name indistinct] region, and (Zazi) District on the outskirts of Meymaneh city, and Aliabad in Takhar Province.

As a result, a number of warmongering extremist elements were killed, dozens injured, and eight arrested. The military destroyed 3 arms and ammunition depots, 5 pack animals carrying ammunition, 3 DShks, and ZK-1 gun, a surface-to-surface missile, a mortar, a rocket launcher, and 28 light weapons, and 200 artillery shells seized.

In the course of another mopping-up operation that took place on the outskirts of Arghandab and Daman Districts in Qandahar Province, the criminal extremists left behind a large number of dead and wounded. In addition, a recoilless gun, a rocket launcher, four light weapons, and three strongholds were destroyed.

According to another report, a number of extremist elements were killed as the result of a mopping-up operation carried out in (Koh-e Abrashum) region, Sarowbi District, and other regions of Kabul Province. Three surface-to-surface missiles of the [word indistinct] type and three rockets were destroyed, and a surface-to-surface missile of the [word indistinct] type and three Japanese-made communications sets were seized by the country's peace guardians.

The criminal extremists, who are supported by the United States and Pakistan, again resorted to an unforgivable action on the outskirts of Konduz Province. They martyred 42 of our innocent compatriots, including 10 children and 8 women. Another person was injured.

The report adds that on 30 November these criminals savagely attacked a bus headed from Qaravol District to Konduz City, in the region of (Dow Rah-e Dasht-e Archi). They cruelly shot our innocent compatriots to death. Of the 42 passengers on the bus, only an 8-year-old girl remains alive, and she is injured. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Gains in West, East Reported

Parts of Herat Liberated

BK0512115688 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have intensified their operations, liberating the Pashtun Zarghun Woleswali [district] area, Herat Province. In retaliation, the Kabul regime's forces bombarded the western part of the province, killing a large number of civilians. Mujahidin have blocked a part of the Herat-Qandahar road, killing or wounding over 138 Kabul regime troops.

Siege on Jalalabad Tightened

BK0512154688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the Kabul regime has sent fresh reinforcements to Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province. The mujahidin have intensified their operations between Jalalabad and Samar Khel to tighten their siege around this city. They are strengthening their siege near Kabul and Jalalabad highway in order to prevent the movement of the Kabul administration's forces.

The mujahidin have also blocked a part of the Herat-Qandahar road. In this operation, they have killed or wounded more than 130 Kabul soldiers.

According to another report, the mujahidin have intensified their operation to liberate Pashtun Zarghun Woleswali [district] area in Herat Province. In retaliation, the Kabul regime's forces bombarded the western part of the province, killing a large number of civilians.

It is reported that the mujahidin carried out successful operations in Konduz and Parvan Provinces, inflicted heavy loss of life and property to the Kabul regime's forces.

Bangladesh

British Minister Meets Ershad, Foreign Minister
BK0312135388 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Visiting British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Lord Glenarthur called on the Bangladesh president in Dhaka this morning. Lord Glenarthur handed over a letter from British Prime Margaret Thatcher to President Ershad. In her letter, Prime Minister Thatcher has officially invited President Ershad to visit the United Kingdom in February next.

During the meeting, the British minister conveyed the deep sympathy of the government and the people of Britain for the loss of lives and property in the floods, as well as the cyclone that hit the coastal areas of Bangladesh. Lord Glenarthur informed the president that a team of British experts will be coming soon to Bangladesh to undertake a study on flood prevention measures.

The British minister commended the efforts made by President Ershad, his government and the people of the country in facing the calamitous floods. He also appreciated the present government's policies, with particular emphasis on the new industrial policy which, he observed, would contribute considerably to the economic development of Bangladesh.

President Ershad thanked the government and the people of Britain for their support and sympathy at the time of distress and also for taking decision to send experts to study the flood problem in Bangladesh. The president told the British minister that the flood preparedness plan (was) being implemented by the government.

Lord Glenarthur also called on Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury. A Foreign Office spokesman in Dhaka said the talks were held in a friendly and informal atmosphere marked by excellent understanding.

India

Rajiv Gandhi To Begin China Visit 19 Dec
BK0512130388 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Several important agreements are due to be signed during the prime minister's coming visit to China from the 19th of this month, including one on science and technology. This was disclosed by the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, while addressing the consultative committee meeting of the members of Parliament attached to his ministry in New Delhi today. Mr Rao and the foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, told the members that detailed arrangements relating to the talks and other aspects of the visit have been finalized. They said the Chinese officials have described Mr Rajiv Gandhi's ensuing visit as a major and historic event, which will have positive effects on peace in the region.

Mr Rao pointed out that a visit by an Indian prime minister to China is taking place after a gap of 34 years. Nehru visited China in 1954.

Further on Visit to PRC

BK0512163188 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Several important agreements, including one on cooperation in science and technology, are to be signed during the prime minister's forthcoming visit to China later this month. Speaking at the consultative committee meeting of the members of parliament attached to his ministry in New Delhi today, the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, said Chinese officials have described Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit as a major and historic event, which will have positive effect on peace in the region.

Mr Rao referred to the fact that it was after 34 years that an Indian prime minister would be visiting Beijing. The minister said that during the visit, the leadership on both sides will take stock of the substance of the eight rounds of official-level talks held so far on the border dispute between the two countries.

Mr Rao said both India and China share a common desire to improve bilateral relations in keeping with the significant changes taking place throughout the world.

Most of the members endorsed the view of the external affairs minister that the visit will be a pacesetter for evolving an approach to solve the pending problems between India and China. They felt that if the atmosphere could be improved between the two countries by this visit, that in itself will be a major success for India and China. Both Mr Rao and the foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, briefed the members on the two preparatory visits of the Indian delegation to China. It was pointed out that during the visit, details of various arrangements relating to the talks and other aspects of Mr Gandhi's visit had been finalized.

The consultative committee, during its 90-minute meeting, also concluded its deliberations on Burma. The external affairs minister outlined the steps taken by the government with regard to the developing situation in that country. Mr Rao said India is watching the border situation with great care and a decision will be taken after careful consideration.

Human Resources Minister Meets PRC Delegation
BK0512164488 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network
in English 1600 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] A five-member Chinese cultural delegation called on the human resources development minister, Mr Shiv Shankar, in New Delhi today. The delegation is led by the Chinese deputy minister for culture, Mr Liu Deyou. Mr Shiv Shankar held discussions with the visitors about a 3-year cultural agreement between the two countries.

The agreement is to be signed on Friday. Both sides felt that the cultural agreement will be a good precursor to Mr Rajiv Gandhi's forthcoming visit to China.

Maldives President Gayoom To Visit 7 Dec
BK0512125488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1206 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 5 (AFP)—Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, who last month survived a coup attempt with Indian military assistance, will pay a day's visit to India Wednesday [7 December], officials said here Monday.

Mr. Gayoom is expected to hold high-level talks with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and other senior Indian officials before flying home Thursday, government sources here said.

The Maldives president was to have visited India for three days beginning November 1, but postponed his trip without giving any reason.

Two days later, Sri Lankan Tamil mercenaries stormed his Indian Ocean republic in a bid to oust the government but fled after New Delhi sent in troops.

The Maldives enjoys close relations with India, and both are members of the seven-nation South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Planning Minister Meets With Afghan Counterpart
BK0312032288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] India and Afghanistan have agreed on the need for exchange of information on economic plans. Various topics like planning for private sector in the mixed economy, efficient utilization of natural resources, and problems of industrial development came up during talks between the Afghan planning minister, Mr Sultan Husayn, and the planning minister, Mr Madhavsingh Solanki.

Former Punjab Chief Barnala Resigns Party Post
BK0512093988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Mr Surjit Singh Barnala [former Punjab chief minister] has resigned from the presidency of the Akali Dal-Longowal. He has also dissolved the working committee of the party and disbanded its youth and backward classes wings. Mr Barnala made these announcements after presenting himself to the high priests at the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religious authority] in Amritsar today to get the excommunication order on him revoked. He said he had no right to disband the party as demanded by the high priests. The high priests ordered Mr Barnala to undergo religious punishment after which he will be exonerated.

Punjab Police Chief Gill on Terrorism Problem
BK0312080288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] The director general of Punjab Police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, has said there has been a marked public response to combat terrorism in the state. Speaking to newsmen in Amritsar today, he said many encounters took place on the basis of crucial information provided by the people. He said the scheme to arm villagers in the border districts of Gurdaspur and Amritsar is getting a headway and so far 60 villages have been brought under the scheme. Besides, a large number of special force has been set up in border areas.

Replying to a question, Mr Gill said there is a possibility of more arms and ammunition being smuggled from across the border recently.

2 Fighter Planes Crash After Midair Collision
BK0312031688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Two Air Force fighter planes crashed into a tea garden labor colony in Dibrugarh of Assam yesterday after colliding in midair. Three persons, including a pilot and child, were killed while four sustained serious injuries. The area of the crash has been cordoned off. Investigations are on.

Iran

Navy Chief Rejects Report on Airbus Downing
LD0512160688 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan today rejected an ICAO report that U.S. warships lack devices necessary for monitoring radio frequencies sent by civilian aircraft.

"The USS Vincennes is equipped with the most advanced radar systems and is capable of monitoring passenger flights," Malekzadegan said.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is meeting in Toronto, Canada to probe the July 3rd U.S. crime which led to the martyrdom of 290 passengers and crew including 66 children.

According to reports from Toronto, ICAO is about to claim in its report that U.S. warships do not have sufficient equipment to monitor civilian flights.

The routine 5-days-a-week flight was enroute to Dubai (UAE) from Bandar-e 'Abbas when its destination was cut short by two missiles fired by the USS Vincennes.

The ICAO report only states that the incident was due to repeated "mistakes" of the Vincennes crew and that no coordination existed between the U.S. fleet in the region and civilian air traffic control.

"Proper coordination could have identified civilian flights or at least averted the mishap", it adds.

The report blames the downed airliner for not heeding an emergency signal supposed to have been sent by the Vincennes, warning the Airbus A-300 to keep away from the "war zone" and the area where the American warships were patrolling.

It claims the last of the four supposed warnings given by the Vincennes only "40 seconds before the missiles were fired" could have been heeded by the Airbus crew. But it fails to answer how a huge passenger liner could have reacted within such a short time if the ICAO version of events is to be believed. The advanced radar system mounted on the Vincennes undoubtedly had the Iranian Airbus and its flight characteristics clearly on the screen.

According to the ICAO version American officers are supposed to have "mistakenly reported a diving plane" when in fact the Airbus was increasing its altitude having taken off from Bandar-e 'Abbas a bare seven minutes before the tragedy.

Official Clarifies Position on POW Swap

LD0512153188 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT
5 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—The exchange of ill and wounded war prisoners of war will remain suspended until Baghdad releases 67 ill and disabled Iranian POWS who should have already been repatriated, a Iranian official reiterated Monday [5 December].

Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran, an official from the Supreme Defence Council in charge of Iraqi POWS, said Iraq's refusal to release the ill and wounded Iranian POWS was in violation of all international conventions and the Geneva agreement reached last month.

Meanwhile Iran was prepared to offer a list of all ill and wounded Iraqi POWS to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in compliance with the second stage of the Geneva agreement, he said.

The 11 November agreement requires both Iran and Iraq to give a complete list of all ill and disabled POWS to the ICRC before noon today so that the committee can arrange their exchange.

The Iranian official was speaking at a press conference to clarify Iran's position on the prisoner swap which came to a halt on 26 November.

A member of the medical committee in charge of examining ill and wounded POWS, Dr Ayasufi, said out of 561 Iraqi POWS examined by the committee for the exchange, 263 were declared ill and invalid and therefore eligible for repatriation.

But 95 of them had overcome their illness, 69 were sent to medical centers for further examination and 28 requested political asylum. Two other Iraqi POWS have died since the ICRC registration which last took place in 1986.

The committee also includes two ICRC doctors and an Iraqi doctor who is a prisoner of war in Iran.

Some 20 Iraqi POWS who were brought to the press conference explained to reporters why they had requested political asylum from the Islamic Republic. They called on international bodies to take immediate measures to enable their families to come here.

One of the POWS, Captain 'Ali Musa, refuted claims that Iraqi POWS had been brainwashed. "The truth is that we prefer living in Iran than to return to Iraq that is under control of the Ba'thists," he said.

Iraq Said Violating Agreement

LD0612120888 Tehran IRNA in English 1145 GMT
6 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—By refusing to release a list of non-registered disabled and ill Iranian POWS at the scheduled deadline, the Iraqi regime once again violated an accord inked between the two countries and the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on November 11.

Fatollah Mohajerani, the official in charge of Iraqi POWS committee today said according to the third article of the agreement, Iran and Iraq had promised to submit a list of these POWS to the ICRC on December 5.

He said Iran had delivered a list to the ICRC Monday but regretted that the Iraqi regime did not follow suit.

The Islamic Republic had informed ICRC officials that the Iraqi regime had once breached the agreement by refusing to repatriate 67 ill and disabled Iranian POWS, Mohajerani said. "Iran submitted the list to the ICRC at the scheduled time in order to show its good will."

The exchange of the sick and disabled POWS started Nov. 24 and scores of POWS were exchanged in three stages but in each stage the number of exchanged POWS was less than the one already agreed upon.

Iran and Iraq had agreed to repatriate 115 and 41 POWS respectively in each stage. But the number of those leaving Iran was reduced because some Iraqis had recovered, some gone under medical tests and some sought political asylum in the Islamic Republic.

But Iraq reduced the number of Iranian POWS to be released without an explanation.

Iran therefore suspended the operation after three stages and accused Baghdad of violating the agreement by refusing to repatriate 67 Iranian POWS.

Prime Minister Assesses Basij Role in Revolution
LD0212223288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Prime Minister Musavi gave a speech describing the sensitive position of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region and noted the importance of the Mobilization of the Oppressed [Basij] and their role in safeguarding the achievements of the Islamic revolution. He said: Following the victory of the revolution and the cutting off of the hands of the large powers from Iran, the enemies of the Islamic revolution started to oppose this holy movement through all sorts of activities.

The leader of the revolution, as a result of his special understanding, decided that the best technique to defend the borders of Islam and the achievements of the Islamic revolution was to turn the country into an army and establish the Mobilization of the Oppressed movement. When the Basij, through its powerful presence on the holy defense scene foiled evil plots, the importance of the organization became clear.

The prime minister then noted that if a revolution wants to stand on its own two feet, it becomes the target of continued attacks and (?plots) of the great powers and their cronies, and said: As long as the revolution maintains its Islamic nature and adheres to its fundamental aspirations, it will withstand enemy plots against the independence and freedom of deprived nations, and in order to defend the revolution the country must be turned into a strong fort and homes must become trenches against the onslaught of foreigners. [passage omitted]

The prime minister concluded by noting the importance of the unity and coordination of clerical centers and universities. He stressed that the clergy and the students need to be united and exchange views and said: Today the world is undergoing development and evolution and the leaders of the society must be aware of current world affairs. Therefore, the presence of coordination between the students as those who are aware of international science and the clergy is very important because the clergy who wish to control the leadership in the society must be aware of all problems and attempt to solve them.

IRGC Officials on Mobilization in Postwar Era
NC0212113488 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1700 GMT 1 Dec 88

["Weekly Political Roundtable" with 'Alireza Afshar, acting IRGC commander and IRGC spokesman; and Rahmani, official in charge of the IRGC Mobilization Unit, moderated by Afshar, correspondent of the Vision of Iran; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Salutations to you dear viewers of the Weekly Political Roundtable. I pray for the success of each one of you, dear brothers and sisters. As you are aware, we are celebrating Mobilization Week. We have heard the life-inspiring message of his eminence the imam regarding the dear Mobilization of the Oppressed forces. The discussion at this Weekly Political Roundtable will revolve around the issues pertaining to mobilization and the Mobilization forces.

Now, at the beginning of this program I request permission to introduce our dear guests. Our brother Mr 'Alireza Afshar, the acting IRGC commander and the IRGC spokesman. I may inform our dear viewers that our other participant, Mr Rahmani, who is in charge of the IRGC Mobilization Unit, has, unfortunately, not yet arrived. We hope to see him during the course of the program.

Mr Afshar, I welcome you and thank you for your participation in this Weekly Political Roundtable. Permit me to ask you a question.

[Afshar] Certainly, please.

[Moderator] As Your Excellency is aware, following the announcement of the cease-fire, we have perceived a series of Iraqi movements along the entire length of the frontlines. This in itself constitutes a warning to the Islamic Republic of Iran to maintain its readiness along the frontlines at every moment. In order to do so, we should rally all our resources and possibilities, and equip ourselves along the frontlines so that any further aggression against our Islamic country may be foiled. If we do so, a number of our forces, which should be used in our country's reconstruction in the postwar era, will remain inactive; we will not be able to use their services for reconstruction but will be forced to station these forces along the fronts in order to maintain our combat readiness.

In view of this state of affairs and the conditions prevailing at present—neither peace nor war, as it is termed—and because we cannot estimate how long this situation will continue, how many months or years, could you please tell us what organizational plans, what measures have been envisaged so that we may use these forces to the optimum?

[Afshar] In the name of God, the merciful the compassionate. I wish to convey my greetings and congratulations on the occasion of the anniversary of the auspicious decree by his eminence the imam for the establishment of a 20-million-strong army. [passage omitted] Following our acceptance of the cease-fire, and in order to maintain our units' readiness along the frontlines—especially as our enemy, as has been proved, does not believe in abiding by international treaties and agreements—it is imperative that we should maintain our readiness in any event.

Regarding your question on the possibility that some Mobilization forces and reserve forces might be called up, and units organized and reinforced if any serious threat is perceived, I wish to state that a plan has been formulated for this contingency. All IRGC centers have been informed that such a capability of forces should be maintained for reorganizing and reinforcing the units. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Mr Afshar, in most countries, for example in the PRC, which has a huge population of more than 1 billion people, we have witnessed that, of these popular mobilized forces, some are used for military purposes as well as for the development and reconstruction of the country; that is, they are used in both sectors. You said a plan has been formulated in this regard. I believe the people would be eager to hear of this plan in view of the fact that we are in the throes of the postwar era. The imam of the nation also has stated that reconstruction is a priority issue at present.

[Afshar] As far as the IRGC and the Mobilization forces are concerned, in general, this plan pertains primarily to reconstruction in the Armed Forces. We should not believe that it is possible to have a free, independent, and flourishing economy, or a dynamic and independent culture, without possessing any strength. In view of the game that world oppression is playing with the oppressed nations of the world through its raising and lowering of oil prices, and through various other means and pressure, it is evident that, if a country wishes to be free in the true sense of the word, it should, on principle, first of all be strong. This means it should have the capability of safeguarding its independence.

Therefore, the reconstruction of the Armed Forces and the reorganization of the units—in view of all our experiences in the course of 8 years of the imposed war and the massive resources we possess in the form of the Mobilization forces who have served on the fronts and are specialists in these matters, as well as of the units set up in the course of the war—should proceed and all these should be completely reorganized and remain prepared. However, the IRGC, the Mobilization of the Oppressed, as well as the units already are in this state of preparedness and at the disposal of their organizations for participating in the country's reconstruction and development programs. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] You mentioned in your remarks that the Armed Forces, and the Mobilization forces in particular, have gained valuable warfare experience. As I recall, the Mobilization forces have been used at the level of an IRGC division. Now that we are not under conditions of war, there is a great possibility that these Mobilization forces may be removed from the IRGC cadres. Then there will no longer be the same cooperation with the IRGC as in wartime. This in itself creates vacuums in the IRGC forces and the Mobilization forces. In view of this, I think that a plan should be drawn up so that cooperation may continue between the Mobilization forces and the IRGC forces. Has any action been taken in this regard? Have any plans been made?

[Afshar] We have two such plans regarding the Mobilization forces. As you said, the Mobilization forces have been occupying various specialized and command positions. Reports and films show the Mobilization forces as secondary, but this is not true. When they go to the fronts for the first time, they gain experience in fields other than their own specialized fields. They take over responsibility in fields of communications, armor, health services, and so on. We utilize great numbers of the Mobilization forces who have various specialties and experience.

Two plans have been drawn up so that this experience and specialization may be consolidated and attached to the IRGC and combat units. One is that all specialties will be identified, and, as announced earlier, those having a certain specialty will be awarded technical certification. [passage omitted] The other plan is that we use the Mobilization manpower, particularly the specialized forces in the command and other cadres, in the 20-million-strong army organization. This organization is so vast that every commander of a battalion or a division on the fronts can be used in the cities for setting up the 20-million-strong organization. If we continue this kind of contact in the army, they will have suitable positions and their experience will be retained. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] The mass media recently cited you as saying that, henceforth, besides the IRGC, all organizations and departments will play an active role in supporting, expanding, and bolstering the 20-million-man army. As our dear people know, during the war and afterwards, such organizations always supported the Mobilization forces and the army. I want to know whether, as you were cited, is it the same support that they extended in the past, or has another plan been formulated by the General Command Headquarters?

[Afshar] I want to state this. The participation of the executive machinery in setting up the 20-million-strong army prior to their being put to use, that is, during the formation and training stage or during the war stage and the mobilization of the country for defense, is very

sensitive and significant. On principle, every country has its maximum investment spread out over various departments during a war of defense. [passage omitted]

I want to say that the executive machinery—whether prior to a war or a threat and regarding its organization—should play an active role. The imam has stressed the importance of setting up the 20-million-strong army. He considers it necessary for the perpetuation of the revolution. Who makes up our army? And who are the Mobilization of the Oppressed? They are students, university students, employees in organizations, factory workers, workers at the Ministry of Education, or even from guilds and villages, and all of them are in a way part of the country's administrative machinery. We need them to organize the forces and to assist us.

Without the assistance of the executive organizations, it is impossible to establish and forge such an army. With its limited capability, the IRGC cannot perform this task alone. The 20-million-strong army demands extensive coordination. I stated during the war that an overall mobilization should take place and that it would be necessary to stage exercises and maneuvers. For example, the country's civilian telecommunications terminology is different from its military telecommunications terminology.

Any coordination between the two cannot be carried out while a war is going on. It should be done prior to a war. This is true in every country all over the world. In view of the problems we faced during the imposed war and the experience we gained, we should utilize our experience, God willing, and thus bring about the desired participation of the executive organizations.

[Moderator] Thank you very much. Dear viewers, my colleagues are motioning to me that Mr Rahmani, the official in charge of the IRGC mobilization unit, has arrived. I am asking him to enter the studio so that we are at his service. [Video shows Rahmani entering the studio and sitting down] Welcome. I ask your permission, Mr Rahmani, to ask Mr Afshar a question which has just come to me. Regarding this close coordination between the IRGC and all the other executive organizations and departments you mentioned, which are necessary for the support and strengthening of the 20-million-strong army, has the plan for it been approved by the General Command Headquarters? If so, have the organizations and departments responded positively to this plan?

[Afshar] A bill on coordination was approved earlier by the esteemed Cabinet and the Supreme War Council, and their support continues. However, the bill, which basically concerns the establishment of the 20-million-strong army or what should delineate the participation of the executive machinery in the advent of a war, has not taken the formal path of approval and presentation. We are hopeful, however, that the opportunity presenting

itself will be maximally utilized to bring about this coordination and that we will submit a joint plan to the decision-making authorities. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] I want to say that, during the course of the imposed war, the defense of the ideals of the revolution and of the country's soil was a strong motivating factor for the popular forces that were mobilized and dispatched to the fronts. Now that combat has ended and we are in neither war nor peace conditions, a large number of these Mobilization forces have returned to their homes. Could you tell us what measures have been planned for continuing the cooperation between these popular forces and the Mobilization organization?

[Rahmani] I wish to amend the first part of your question. As it has been said many times, the motivating factor for the Mobilization forces has been eliminated in the postwar period. I feel that the motivating factor then was a presence at the fronts, but in the Mobilization organization the motivating factor is not only a military or a political one. This is because the Islamic system of defense is based on both individual and collective participation against any movement opposed to the ideology, leadership, system of an Islamic country, or Islamic region.

They should be prepared to respond swiftly if any such incident takes place and should be able to act quickly to answer all aggression or attacks or any political or military moves. This is like all the other religious obligations which all are dutybound to follow. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] I thank you, Mr Rahmani. Mr Afshar, of supreme importance as regards the Mobilization forces is their organization. In this context and in view of the unique nature of these forces, there is a special incline [as heard] which must be kept in mind. Attempts by the IRGC to organize the mobilized forces have not attained the expected definite results. There was a Labbayk ya Imam plan and the phased dispatch plan, and they did not achieve the desired positive results. Have the shortcomings and strong points of these earlier plans been identified? Have any new plans been formulated for rearranging the Basiji forces that may have taken these points into account?

[Afshar] Yes. If you are referring to implementing the plans for the systematic organization of the 20-million-strong army and reserve forces for the warfronts, then these plans may not have been successful. However, also under these plans, because of conditions prevailing during the war, we were forced to take our forces to the fronts in order to complete the combat units. They were successful to a certain extent. They managed to create a suitable atmosphere and to project remarkably the presence of forces at the fronts. They created that necessary attraction on the scene, and, praise be to God, we were blessed with crowds converging on the fronts. We were

thus able in the course of the war, despite the pressure on us by world oppression through the Aflaqi Ba'thist forces, to continue our resistance and to prevent them from reaching their goals.

As a matter of fact, it should always be kept in mind that in the 8 years of the imposed war we had only 1 year of enemy offensives, and that was in the beginning. In the course of the following years, we were the ones who launched repeated offensives to vindicate our rights and to drive the enemy out of our territory. All this was done through planning. In light of all the equipment and sophisticated arms the enemy had, and which were continuously supplied to him, there was not much chance of crushing him. It was only the successful plans and the presence of the sincere and martyrdom-seeking Mobilization forces that made it possible. Praise be to God that we attained this honor of resisting all plots.

My answer to your impression of the 20-million-strong army, its establishment and organization, and that we have not made any formal plans is this: Yes, it is true. We should have made use of the opportunity to embark on such an organization by utilizing the defined military principles that exist regarding the reserve, mobilized, and combat units. Fortunately, there is a very close rapport among the divisions, the combat units, the IRGC forces, and the Mobilization forces. Some IRGC forces were once Mobilization members themselves. They were formed from the Mobilization forces on the basis of their specialization and command capability. [passage omitted]

[Rahmani] Before you ask the next question, I want to add something about your interpretation of the plans in the past, such as the "We hear you, O Imam" plan or the other one that you did not mention, and which you said were not successful. I do not think that this interpretation is complete, or I should say, that it is erroneous. This is because our intention in the past was for the forces to be trained for the war and then be used in one of the divisions or brigades.

However, as regards the organization of the 20-million-strong army or the plan (of ranks) or the "We hear you, O Imam" plan, as you mentioned, I must state that the last one was extremely successful. In the Khyber [as heard] operations more than 200,000 were present at the fronts. This is the figure that I know of for the units and the reserve forces who were prepared to join those who had gone on ahead to cross the areas that had been predetermined for the attainment of our final objectives. The "We hear you, O Imam" plan was successful at that particular time, as all those forces were collected from all over the country. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Comments on Trade With FRG
LD0412110188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Interview with Economy and Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Iravani, commercial relations between Iran and the FRG have taken a new form in the past few days. It is said that this formula may be used in Iran's future relations with other countries. Please describe relations between the two countries on the basis of this agreement.

[Iravani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. There was an imbalance in our trade with the FRG, that is, our imports from the FRG were higher than our exports—oil and nonoil—to that country. During the recent visit by Genscher and other FRG economic officials and industrialists, we proposed a formula to balance our mutual trade, on the basis of which a consortium of German machine manufacturing companies, oil purchasing companies, and one or two big German banks would be formed.

Our trade with the FRG would then be carried out within the framework of that consortium. We would be granted a credit of DM3-5 billion. An account would be opened at one of the banks. Our imports from the FRG and the companies in the consortium would be repaid through that account. Then, the German companies buying our oil would pay the cost to that account. However, it would take Iran 2 years to use up the credit, while it would take 5 years to repay it through the sale of oil.

[Correspondent] In fact, that is the difference with barter agreements.

[Iravani] Yes, there is a 3-year time differential.

[Correspondent] What is the role of German banks here?

[Iravani] Let me explain. The FRG is Iran's biggest trading partner. The German Government maintains that it has no control over its industries or oil purchasing companies. However, we have raised the issue of the trade imbalance. We believe that if the FRG wishes to expand its economic ties with Iran, it should somehow coordinate them. The role of the German banks here is that they grant us the credit, which we will repay in 5 years through our oil revenues. It is, in fact, a kind of short-term credit.

[Correspondent] The role of the German Government then is that of an organizer. Please tell us if the government is going to use these facilities solely for importing infrastructure industries, or whether the private sector will be given the opportunity to participate?

[Irvani] That depends on our foreign currency and economic development policies. As for the FRG, we will naturally concentrate on infrastructure activities. We shall give priority to the energy, gas, oil, and petrochemical industries, and to the steel industry. However, that is not limited to the public sector. There may be some peripheral industries in which the private sector could participate, the petrochemical industries for example.

FRG Minister Heads Delegation on Reconstruction

*LD0412085988 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT
4 Dec 88*

[Text] Tehran, Dec 4, IRNA—West German Minister of Regional Planning, Building and Urban Development Oscar Schneider in a meeting here Sunday morning with Minister of Housing and Urban Development Serajeddin Kazeruni discussed Bonn-Tehran cooperation in the field of construction.

Schneider who arrived here Saturday heading a delegation also discussed post-war reconstruction and exchange of construction.

Meets With Musavi

*LD0512170888 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT
5 Dec 88*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—Tehran and Bonn are to sign a letter of understanding for cooperation in housing and construction.

In his meeting with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today, the West German Minister of Planning, Building and Urban Development Oscar Schneider said Bonn is ready to help Iran rebuild its economy.

The premier, referring to the friendly Tehran-Bonn ties, told the German official that the two countries can cooperate in post-war reconstruction projects, namely in producing construction materials. Schneider arrived here last week on 30 November.

Construction Agreement Signed

*LD0612102488 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT
6 Dec 88*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—An agreement was concluded here Tuesday morning between Iran and West Germany for establishment of construction material producing industries in Iran.

The agreement was signed by the visiting West German minister of regional planning, building and urban development Oscar Schneider and Iran's minister of housing and urban development Serajeddin Kazeruni.

The industries are to produce prefabricated housing materials, cement, steel needed in construction and glass. It also calls for training of Iranians in the field of construction.

According to the agreement both sides are also to cooperate in reconstruction. Construction companies of Iran and West Germany are to have technical and scientific cooperation in building of housing complexes. It also calls for exchange of the latest information in housing industry.

The Tehran-Bonn joint economic commission is to take steps for promotion of bilateral cooperation in construction field.

Speaking after signing of the agreement Kazeruni described it a positive development. Stating that in post-war reconstruction Iran will not rely on a single country, he said that similar negotiations have been held with the Soviet Union and Poland.

Kazeruni added that the degree of participation of foreign countries in Iran's reconstruction is decided by the government.

The West German minister arrived here last Sunday and has held talks with Premier Hoseyn Musavi, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Minister of Construction Jihad Gholamreza Foruzesh.

UK Charge To Look Into Hostage Problem

*LD0512124488 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 1211 GMT 5 Dec 88*

[By Ingrid Morris, PRESS ASSOCIATION]

[Text] Britain's new man in Iran was today preparing to meet officials to discuss the fate of the Lebanon hostages. With the Union Flag flying over the British Embassy in Tehran for the first time in eight years, Mr Gordon Pirie said he was off to "a good start".

He was planning to meet Iranian Foreign Ministry officials to try to get permission to visit two Britons imprisoned in Tehran without trial and also to ask them to use their influence to help win the release of the three Britons held hostage in Beirut.

Persian-speaking Mr Pirie, the diplomat charged with the task of re-establishing Britain's mission in Iran, arrived in the capital with his wife and pet dog yesterday after driving his Ford Sierra 6,000 miles from Britain.

He said he had received a warm reception and was given an Iranian police escort for the final part of the journey. "I am off to a good start," he said speaking from the embassy. "The Iranians seem happy to get back to a normal diplomatic relationship."

The embassy was closed—and diplomatic links broken—after it was attacked by Islamic extremists in 1980. The building later became part of the Swedish Embassy, which looked after British interests in Iran.

Mr Pirie, now acting charge d'affaires, said a ceremony watched by locally employed members of the embassy staff was held in the grounds yesterday to raise the Union Flag. "The Swedish ambassador lowered his flag and I raised ours," he said.

About 35 Iranians have been looking after the building in the absence of British diplomats. "It has been kept in very good order," said Mr Pirie. "A few offices will have to be dusted down but otherwise everything is fine." Mr Pirie, 52, and his wife Maria have taken Christmas presents, mince pies and crackers which they hope to give to Roger Cooper and Nicholas Nicola, the two Britons in prison in Tehran. "I am hoping to get permission to visit them in prison before Christmas."

He said it would be some time before routine embassy business, such as the visa section, could be open. "My first task is to set in motion the administrative side of the embassy and to re-establish communications here."

He will shortly be joined by other British diplomats, building up to a full staff of 16.

Mr Pirie, who has served in Tehran before, said he and his wife were "very happy" to be back. "My wife has settled in again and is busy contacting old friends," he added.

Turkish Ambassador Meets Transport Minister
*LD0512082988 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT
5 Dec 88*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5 IRNA—Tehran-Ankara cooperation in land and railway transportation was discussed in a meeting of Turkish ambassador to Tehran Omer Akbel with Iran's Minister of Roads and Transport Mohammad Seyyed Kya here Sunday evening. Bilateral relations were also raised in the meeting.

Larijani Leaves for East Europe, Sweden, Denmark
*LD0512101388 Tehran IRNA in English 1004 GMT
5 Dec 88*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani heading a political delegation left Tehran Monday morning on a four-nation tour.

Larijani is to visit Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Sweden and Denmark and will discuss status of bilateral relations and international issues with the officials of these countries.

Paper on Majles Speaker's 29 Nov News Conference
*NC0612122888 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
30 Nov 88 p 3*

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majles and acting commander in chief, announced yesterday that in his talks with Hans-Dietrich Genscher, certain kinds of credit

were discussed. He added that if the results prove favorable, then there will be similar economic exchanges with other countries as well. The Majles speaker made this statement during a news conference he gave to local and foreign correspondents. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out that, while we have not made any decision regarding loans from foreign banks, we are prepared to consider various types of loans from foreign banks, including those taken out in exchange for raw materials. [passage omitted]

Asked by the correspondent from "SEUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG" about the Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with the Arab states of the Persian Gulf region, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Most of our problems with the countries in the Persian Gulf region stemmed from the imposed war, primarily because of the assistance those countries provided the enemy. The Islamic Republic of Iran desires cordial relations with all of its neighbors. Now that the war has ended, there is nothing to keep us from expanding our relations with these countries.

He added: The [Saudi] Arabian Government's agents mistreated groups of Iranian pilgrims, martyring some of them. They must make amends for these incidents. There also were some problems with regard to OPEC, but these have now been eliminated. [passage omitted]

The correspondent of the West German "DER SPIEGEL" newspaper said: FRG Chancellor Willy Brandt [title as published] has repeatedly expressed anxiety over the fate of Dr Ahmad Danesh, a physician, who has been sentenced to death in Iran. There seem to be indications that he has been executed. Is this true?

The Majles speaker responded: "I have no information about any such person. You should ask the judicial officials regarding his dossier."

He added: It would have been better if someone had been a little concerned about the fate of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. Their only crime is that they are defending their country. If someone commits a punishable crime in the Islamic Republic, the punishment is meted out without any other consideration. Therefore, if his crime does not merit execution, then he will be justly treated. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Cooperation Talks With Libya
*LD0412134388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1048 GMT 4 Dec 88*

[Station commentary: "Iran and Libya on Way Toward the Expansion of Mutual Relations"]

[Excerpt] Following the 5-day visit by Behzad Nabavi, our country's minister of heavy industries, and his accompanying delegation, to Libya, during which an economic agreement was signed between the two countries, the Ministry of Heavy Industries announced the details of this agreement in a report published yesterday.

According to this report, the agreement guarantees the expansion of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of industry, oil, commerce, agriculture, communications, and navigation. It was signed by Behzad Nabavi, minister of heavy industries and head of the Iranian political-economic delegation, and Dr Fathi Shatwan, Libyan secretary of industry, at the end of the first round of the joint Iran-Libya commission's talks.

According to this agreement, which followed several days of talks between the high-ranking Iranian officials and the Libyan officials, and also the meetings between the joint specialists committees of Iran and Libya for the expansion of economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran will export a variety of goods such as agricultural machinery, cars, all kinds of radiators, synthetic carpets, and clothes. In return it will import necessary goods such as chemical fertilizers.

In addition, with regard to the expansion of trade and scientific-industrial cooperation between the two countries, it was agreed that the Islamic Republic of Iran will dispatch specialists in various fields to participate in Libyan industrial, economic, and social projects. The two countries are also to exchange technical experts and information.

As for cultural cooperation, the two countries have agreed to exchange books and publications and to cooperate in the fields of cinema, films, and so on.

During the 5-day visit to Libya by our country's minister of heavy industries and his accompanying delegation, which lasted from Monday to Friday of last week, the Iranian delegation met with various officials from the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah, such as Colonel al-Qadhafi, the leader of that country. The delegation reiterated the need for further expansion of mutual relations, and called for an improvement in the present level of economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

The Libyan officials, during their meetings with the Iranian delegation, pointed out the sensitive relations between Iran and Libya, and expressed their wish to further expand ties between the two countries in various fields. In a meeting with the head of the Iranian delegation, Libyan leader, Col. al-Qadhafi referred to the strategic ties between the two countries, and said: We have stood by the Islamic Revolution of Iran from the beginning, and we sincerely hope that this revolution will stand firm and strong, as we regard the Islamic revolution of Iran as a blessed gift from God to the Muslim nation of Iran and to the entire Islamic and oppressed nations of the world.

As for the necessity of expansion of economic and industrial relations between the two countries, Col. al-Qadhafi said: This cooperation could strengthen and

consolidate the two countries' actions for the purpose of establishing a joint firm foundation, in relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

New Law on Drug Enforcement Announced

*LD0512181888 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT
5 Dec 88*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—Addicts were given a deadline and a new law calling for execution of drug smugglers was announced by the special state panel which deals with matters of national expediency.

According to a Persian daily Monday the cabinet has been asked to enforce the law which spells out capital punishment for those who buy, sell or distribute more than five kilograms of hashish or opium.

Any civil servant caught buying, selling or carrying even a single gram of narcotics will be dismissed from service for good, foregoing all his benefits and besides he will be penalised, added KEYHAN.

The law states that peddlars of over 30 grams of heroin, morphine, codeine or methadone will be executed, while first time offenders of heroin will be sentenced for life and their properties confiscated.

Addicts were given a six-month deadline starting January 19, 1989 to quit their bad habits, said KEYHAN.

Another afternoon daily the ETELEA'AT quoting the commander of Gendarmerie forces said 5,500 kgs of narcotics was hauled from 1,212 smugglers during a recent operation.

Besides drugs, said Brigadier Mohammad Sohrabi, 2,877,280 packets of foreign cigarettes, 4,467 electronic devices, 2,283 handwoven Persian carpets and a variety of luxurious items were nabbed from 4,045 smugglers. Without elaborating the time or place, he concluded 288 stolen vehicles were also seized by the Gendarmerie forces.

Oil Revenues To Increase Production Capacity

*LD0512194488 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1600 GMT 5 Dec 88*

[Text] The Economic Council decided at today's session with regard to reviews which have been carried out, that the revenues obtained from the export of oil and nonoil goods and services should be used to increase the country's production capacity. The revenues obtained from oil were reviewed in this session, and the need for an increase in the research and production of oil and in investments to increase gas consumption as a substitution for oil as much as possible was reiterated.

The session continued with a review of the potential revenues from the export of oil in the next decade as forecast by the Ministry of Budget and Planning. The

necessary decisions were made taking into account the necessity of utilizing the interests gained from investments. It was also decided that a certain percentage of the country's national revenue should be spent in production research and cultural and social spheres as part of the 5-year plan.

Shipping, Port Officials on Improved Operations
*LD0412154788 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT
4 Dec 88*

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec. 4, IRNA—An average of 35 cargo ships could berth at the same time at Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni once dredging operations are complete and land transport problems are overcome.

Over 300,000 cubic meters have so far been dredged along the jetties in order to facilitate berthing of full capacity cargo vessels, a port official said. Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni (former Shahpur) is one of the country's largest which was put largely out of action because of the war.

Over the past month 18 cargo ships carrying 256,000 tons of rice, wheat, corn, meat and chemical fertilizer entered the port, bringing the number of such ships to 40 since the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq on 20 August, he added.

In related report, head of port and shipping organization Mohammad Madad said the country's ports are in desirable condition with discharge and loading of ships taking place on-time which helps reduce expensive surcharges.

Loading and unloading operations at the southern ports of Bandar-e 'Abbas, Imam Khomeyni and Bushehr are normally fast and efficient, he added.

Madad also disclosed that a shipping line between the northern (Caspian Sea) ports will soon be established with the cooperation of the private sector.

A shipyard is also to become operational on Iran's Caspian Sea coast, he said.

Nepal

Foreign Minister Leaves for PRC, DPRK
*BK0412094088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0912 GMT
4 Dec 88*

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 4 (AFP)—Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya left here Sunday for Hong Kong on his way to Beijing where he is due to sign a protocol on the Sino-Nepalese border, an official source said.

Mr Upadhyaya, who is accompanied by Yadav Kant Silwal, the joint secretary and chief of the Asia-Pacific and Middle East Division in the Foreign Ministry, is then to go on to North Korea, the source added.

Mr Upadhyaya said before leaving that while in Beijing he would be signing a border protocol prepared by a joint Sino-Nepalese team, which in May and June inspected conditions along the 1,414 kilometer Nepal-Tibetan border.

They had repaired several boundary pillars that had been damaged by bad weather and re-demarcated some of Nepal's northern border where boundary markers had been washed away by flooding and landslides.

The protocol to be signed by Mr Upadhyaya and his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen would include some adjustments to the international boundary line between Nepal and the Chinese autonomous region of Tibet, an official here said.

Mr Upadhyaya said he would also discuss bilateral and international issues of mutual interest with Chinese officials.

He would begin talks with Mr Qian on Wednesday and would sign the border protocol the same day.

On Thursday he would travel on to Pyongyang for a two-day visit at the invitation of his North Korean counterpart, Mr Upadhyaya said.

Pakistan

Bhutto To Order Probe of Ziaul Haq Loans
*BK0512161488 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 Dec 88*

[Text] The [Pakistani] prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has announced that a probe into the massive bank loans granted to people during Zia's rule is to be ordered soon. She said in Islamabad the new government has inherited a bankrupt economy and would go along with the package signed by the caretaker government with the IMF just before the elections in the country. The IMF has offered 600 million pounds in aid over 3 years.

Two National Parties Support Bhutto Government
*BK0412091088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 4 Dec 88*

[Text] The leader of the Jamiat-i Ulema-i Islam, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, has said his party will support the government of the Pakistan People's Party in its efforts to mold society according to Islamic principles for its economic well-being and for human rights. In an interview in Islamabad he said the ruling party and the opposition are the two wheels of democracy and should move together to strengthen democracy.

In an interview, the leader of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement, Altaf Hussain, has assured full cooperation with the Pakistan People's Party on federal and provincial levels to make Pakistan a true democratic and exploitation-free country.

Nawaz Sharif Congratulates Bhutto on Premiership
BK0412155888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 88

[Text] Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif has congratulated Benazir Bhutto on assuming the office of prime minister of Pakistan. In a message he said that at this moment of happiness the entire nation is expressing enthusiasm and a spirit of patriotism. He expressed hope that under her wise leadership the country will march forward on a new path of progress and prosperity.

In another message, Nawaz Sharif congratulated the prime minister on behalf of his party and the people of Punjab.

Kabul Protests on Airspace Violations Rejected
BK0412153688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the Kabul regime's various protests lodged in connection with alleged violations of Afghan airspace by Pakistani aircraft. The Kabul regime alleged that Pakistani aircraft intruded into and violated Afghan airspace in Nangarhar, Paktia, and Qandahar Provinces on 27 and 28 November.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad this morning and was told the Kabul regime's allegations were investigated and found to be baseless.

Pakistan has also rejected the Kabul regime's allegation that a U.S. Navy ship has supplied heavy artillery pieces to Pakistan, to be passed on, they claim, to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries.

Ishaq Khan Stays Execution of Death Sentences
BK0512013288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1914 GMT
4 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 4 (AFP)—Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has stayed the execution of death sentences until further orders, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN reported Sunday. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in her first press conference after being sworn in to the office, said Saturday that she had advised the president to provide relief to political prisoners and others convicted by military and other courts.

A final decision on granting amnesty to the convicts was expected soon, Law Minister Aitzaz Ahsan said.

PPP Leader Files Nomination for President
BK0612114788 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Eight candidates have filed nomination papers for election of the president. They are Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan [present president], Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan [of the Pakistan Democratic Party], Mr Ahmed P.F.

Jafar, Mr Mohammad Rafiq Mohammad, General Retired Tikka Khan [secretary general of the Pakistan People's Party], Mr Mohammad Maruf Khan Malik, Sheikh Mohammad Salim Saifi, and Mr Lal Khan Watto.

Nomination papers of seven candidates were received by the chief election commissioner in Islamabad, while one candidate filed his nomination paper in Karachi. [passage omitted]

Inquiry Into Muzaffargarh Incident Ordered
BK0612024488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] A judicial inquiry has been ordered to examine the incident that occurred in Muzaffargarh last Sunday [4 December]. A press note issued by the district magistrate of Muzaffargarh said that two groups of people fired at each other in (Chowk Sadar Sayeed). The police charged with their batons and used teargas to disperse the mob. A few people in the mob fired at the police. The police fired back in self-defense, killing three people. Fourteen others, including 10 policemen, were injured.

HAIDER on Superpowers' Role in Afghanistan
BK0512111788 Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu
24 Nov 88 p 3

[Editorial: "The Need for a Cease-fire in Afghanistan"]

[Text] A U.S. State Department spokesman has said that if the Soviet Union honestly wants a political solution to the Afghanistan issue, it should complete its troop withdrawal and stop its attacks on the mujahidin. According to the spokesman, the repeated attacks on the mujahidin and the stalemate in the troop pullout will not help in a political solution. He stressed that the United States and Pakistan are in favor of a solution which reflects the right of self-determination and the aspirations of the Afghan people and paves the way for the formation of a broad-based representative government in Afghanistan.

If the U.S. State Department spokesman's statement is carefully reviewed, it becomes clear that on the one hand the United States unilaterally wants the Soviet and Afghan forces to stop attacks on the mujahidin and on the other it not only fully supports the mujahidin attacks on the Afghanistan Government but also supplies arms to them according to their needs.

In our view, this aspect of the U.S. stand is in fact a major obstacle to a solution to the dispute. The real situation requires the United States to forget its desire that through military assistance to the mujahidin it will succeed in enabling the mujahidin to capture Afghanistan and that this will bring the region fully under its political influence.

The Soviet Union, which has badly involved itself in Afghanistan, will definitely defend its ally, the Afghan Government, by its military action and has so far proved by its actions that it has no intention of leaving the Government of Afghanistan alone. The United States should not expect the Soviet Union to bow down before the military operations of the mujahidin and make an easy retreat.

The attitude of the Soviet leaders also shows that the Soviet forces cannot be forced from Afghanistan by pressure. The only solution to this dispute is to end the bloodshed in Afghanistan. As long as both the parties concerned do not announce a cease-fire, the restoration of the nonaligned status of Afghanistan cannot be expected nor can there be any sort of talks to form a broad-based government.

The worldwide expectation created by the Geneva accord for the restoration of the nonaligned status of Afghanistan is now becoming a disappointment owing to the tendency of the United States. Although a major portion of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan have been withdrawn, in view of the extraordinary U.S. assistance to the mujahidin the Soviet Union can, at any moment, bring reinforcements into Afghanistan.

It is really a matter of concern and regret to the international community that the punishment for the mutual row and confrontation between the two superpowers has been meted out to the innocent people of Afghanistan. The responsibility for restoring peace in Afghanistan cannot be thrust on any one superpower. As long as both the superpowers fail to display a positive attitude the situation in Afghanistan cannot be improved. It is not at all difficult to reach a conclusion in view of the prevailing tendency of the two powers, but at present neither of them is very serious about solving this issue.

If either of them wants to solve this issue, then by all means it should take the initiative for a cease-fire in Afghanistan. It is a recognized principle that the success of the political talks should be expected only after halting military action and creating a conducive atmosphere for talks. As regards the Afghanistan issue, there is a meaningful silence from the UN secretary general also.

The accord reached as a result of the UN-sponsored indirect talks also depends upon the attitude and the mode of action of the two superpowers. In view of the latest events in Afghanistan, it is necessary for the United Nations to become active and stop the bloodshed and also fulfill its role in restoring the nonaligned status of Afghanistan and in forming a broad-based government there.

Sri Lanka

President, Prime Minister Greet Pakistan's Bhutto
BK0612032988 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
1121 GMT 2 Dec 88

[“OANA/pool” item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 2 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lanka's President J.R. Jayewardene and Prime Minister R. Premadasa sent congratulatory messages to Mrs Benazir Bhutto on her appointment as prime minister of Pakistan.

President Jayewardene's message states: The government and people of Sri Lanka join me in extending to you our warm congratulations on your victory at the recent elections and on your appointment as prime minister. Your victory is a tribute to your leadership and a recognition of the high esteem in which you are held by the people of Pakistan.

The relations between Sri Lanka and Pakistan have been traditionally close and characterised by friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation. I am confident that the relations between Sri Lanka and Pakistan will be further consolidated and strengthened during your period of office as prime minister. Please accept my personal best wishes for your good health, happiness and success in the years to come.

The text of Prime Minister R. Premadasa message: Please accept my warm congratulations on your appointment as prime minister. I send you my best wishes for your good health and success in your term of office.

'Massive Counter-Subversive Operation' Launched
BK0412111888 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] The security forces have launched a massive counter-subversive operation in terrorist-affected areas in different parts of the country as well as in Colombo and its suburbs. This is aimed at ensuring that the presidential elections scheduled for the 19th of December will not be disrupted.

Over 800 subversives against whom there are prima facie cases are being held in detention until they are charged under the emergency laws. They will be tried before the special courts which will be set up soon for this purpose. According to security forces, these persons have been rounded up in a number of operations in the south, other parts of the island, and in and around Colombo. They were taken in following wide-ranging information provided by members of the public in response to the services' call for information by telephone or letter.

In cordon and search operations, an average of about 50 people are rounded up daily, but only those with definite subversive links are detained to be charged later. The rest are freed after interrogations on the same day or the day after.

Indian Troops Kill 3, Apprehend 17 LTTE Men
BK0312115588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
1052 GMT 3 Dec 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 3 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—Three terrorists including Theesan, an LTTE area leader, were killed and seventeen others apprehended by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in their operations in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern sectors yesterday. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that Theesan, an area leader of Nelliadi, and another terrorist were killed at Nelliadi in the Jaffna sector. The sources said that one other terrorist succumbed to injuries sustained in a shoot out with the IPKF at Puttur.

Thirteen terrorists were apprehended in the areas of Pandithirippu, Kokkuvil, Nelliadi, Polikandi and Puttur in Jaffna. The troops also recovered sixty two rounds of 12.7-mm Chinese heavy machine guns at Maruthanadam. The troops also found eleven rounds of AK-47 ammunition, and three hundred and forty two rounds of 07.62 self loading rifle ammunition at Akkarayankulam in the same sector.

A report from Trincomalee states, Indian forces seized one 9-mm carbine machine gun, two carbine magazines, seventy nine rounds of 9-mm ball ammunition and one improvised explosive device during a search operation at Palaiuttu. At Omantai in the Wannu sector, a hardcore terrorist, Thiagaraja, was apprehended by Indian troops. Meanwhile, nine school boys of Sambaltivu Maha Vidyalaya [College] in Sambaltivu in the Trincomalee sector are reported missing since 30th November.

LTTE's Navatkuli Leader Killed in Jaffna
BK0512114488 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
1041 GMT 5 Dec 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 5 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—LTTE's area leader of Navatkuli, Arul, was shot dead in Jaffna town and three other terrorists apprehended along with a large quantity of weapons in separate operations conducted by the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force], according to security reports received today.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that Arul, LTTE's area leader of Navatkuli was killed by Indian troops in the Jaffna town, Saturday [3 December]. Eighty eight rounds of ammunition, three magazines and one AK-47 rifle were found in his possession.

The IPKF apprehended one terrorist with a locally made shot gun at Ampara and one other with two hand grenades and a cyanide capsule in Jaffna.

In the Vavuniya sector, one LTTE terrorist named Thurairaja was apprehended at Vavuniya. The troops recovered one IED [improvised explosive device], one other device consisting of a pressure switch and one IED consisting of a jerry can filled with explosives yesterday.

In Point Pedro, the Indian forces recovered 264 rounds of ammunition and an IED from an abandoned hut.

A report from the Trincomalee sector states that Indian forces recovered three mines, two 60mm mortar bombs, nine hand grenades, one (?VHS) set and eighty metres of cordex wire.

13 LTTE 'Militants' Killed by Indian Forces
BK0612031888 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 13 LTTE militants were shot dead and 4 others injured at Vavuni Kulam in the Vavuniya sector yesterday when a PKF [Peacekeeping Force] patrol spotted an LTTE ambush and opened fire. A PKF press release said a large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered. About 2,000 prisoners in the island are to be freed under emergency release of suspects regulation promulgated by President Jayewardene. The proposal follows recommendations made to the president by the Sri Lankan minister of justice recently.

Northeast Tamil Majority Council Sworn In
BK0512143488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1318 GMT
5 Dec 88

[By Sena Vidanagama]

[Excerpts] Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, Dec 5 (AFP)—A semi-autonomous council was set up in this northeastern town Monday [5 December] in a bid to end Tamil separatist violence, officials said.

Fifty-four members of two former separatists groups turned political parties took their oaths here Monday as legislators in the provincial council uniting the battle-torn Northern and Eastern Provinces at a colourful public ceremony. The council was set up under the provisions of a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan peace pact aimed at ending the Tamil separatist campaign in the north and east.

The councillors from the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and its ally, the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF), pledged their support for a united Sri Lanka.

A former Army commander, Lieutenant General Nalin Seneviratne, who led a drive against Tamil separatists in the two provinces, addressed the first council meeting

conducted under tight security by heavily armed Indian troops. President Junius Jayewardene on Wednesday named Lt. Gen. Seneviratne as the provincial governor with executive powers over the elected council in line with the Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord. [passage omitted]

The main opposition group in the new council, the Sri Lanka Moslem Congress (SLMC), and the lone member of the ruling United National Party (UNP) in the council did not attend the meeting. SLMC spokesman said their elected members hoped to take their oaths in about two weeks. The SLMC has 17 seats in the 73-member council.

Lt. Gen. Seneviratne told reporters here that the chief minister of the council and its cabinet would be sworn in before the president in Colombo on Friday and that the new regional government would start work Saturday. The EPRLF, which has an absolute majority in the council, has named this strategic port town as the capital of the new united north and east region.

Political analysts in Colombo said they believed the formal setting up of the council was a positive step towards restoring democratic institutions in the area and paving the way for peace and stability. "The council is the final political hurdle for the accord. It will be interesting to see how the regional government will function. People voted (for) them because it was their last chance for peace," an analyst in Colombo said.

The council will have its own police force and Indian troops in the area are currently training some 800 men for a volunteer force officially being formed to guard against extremist attacks and to help in rehabilitation work. [passage omitted]

Indian Embassy Rejects Interference Allegations
BK0212142588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
1126 GMT 2 Dec 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 2 (LANKAPUVATH)—A press release issued by the Indian High Commission in Colombo today states that the High Commission of India takes note of a news item in the newspaper ISLAND of Friday, the 2nd of December, banner headlined "Dixit Neelan-Attorney General Meeting Blatant Interference in Lanka's Affairs—Bhikku Federation". High Commissioner Dixit

had called on the attorney general of Sri Lanka in pursuance of Article 2.18 of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement of July the 29th, 1987. This article reads "Official language of Sri Lanka shall be Sinhala. Tamil and English will also be official languages".

The high commissioner was directed by his government to find out whether the necessary legislation has been completed in fulfillment of this article of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement.

The high commissioner was asked by the concerned Sri Lankan Government authorities to make these inquiries from the office of the attorney general of Sri Lanka as according to them he would know the latest position on this issue, including all procedural and technical details.

The high commissioner had called on the attorney general only to make this inquiry as a part of his legitimate duties to keep abreast of developments related to the progressive implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. This does not constitute any interference in Sri Lanka's internal affairs and, therefore, the reported assertion of the Sri Lanka National Bhikku Federation in this regard is unfounded and invalid.

Even more serious are the aspersions cast by the statement of the Bhikku Federation as reported in the newspaper ISLAND that the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) had misused its powers during the elections to the provincial council in the Northeastern Province. Representatives of the Sinhalese, Indian and the international media (both printed and audio-visual) were present throughout the day of elections in the Eastern Province and their reports about the manner in which the elections were conducted are available to the public. The fair manner in which those elections were conducted and the competent manner in which the IPKF performed its task in regard to these elections have been incontrovertibly proved to objective observers.

The high commission firmly and categorically rejects the unjustified and baseless aspersions cast on the Indian Peace Keeping Force which is performing a difficult and complex task at the invitation of the Government of Sri Lanka in the larger interests of all the people of Sri Lanka.

All the allegations and aspersions made against the IPKF in the statement as reported are a blatant attempt at misguiding public opinion by an exercise in premeditated prejudiced mendacity.

Furthermore, the statement clearly shows the motives of questioning the democratic processes revived in the Northeastern Province for fulfilling Tamil aspirations and deliberately vitiating the traditionally close relations between India and Sri Lanka nurtured over long years by the common sense and wisdom of the people's of Sri Lanka and India. Therefore such attempts will not succeed.